

ICO MATTERS

VOLUME 1

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# Matters

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# ICOMatters

Magazine of the Illinois College of Optometry  
and the Illinois Eye Institute

Volume 3 / Issue 1 / Winter 2004

## Insight Into ICO:

A vision of community

Annual Report 2002-2003

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# Come One, Come All

The Illinois College of Optometry will offer a 120-hour TPA course on campus this summer.

Held from July 10 – 25, 2004, the course will be approved by the Illinois Optometric Licensing and Disciplinary Board to meet the Illinois TPA licensure requirements (DPA certification is a prerequisite).

Lodging will be available.

Call Dr. Vince Brandys, Director of Alumni Relations and CE Coordinator, for more information.

312-949-7079 or [vbrandys@ico.edu](mailto:vbrandys@ico.edu)

## The Circle of Life

### THE ANNUAL FUND AT THE ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

#### *Remember when you were a student?*

ICO students share the **commitment to excellence** that motivated you to study hard. They are forming the same kinds of **relationships that nurture** you in your career. Like you, they will **persevere**, in spite of the high cost of achieving their goals.

You know that a doctor of optometry degree from ICO carries significant weight in the real

world. You realize that **ICO educates optometric healers and leaders.**

**Reinvest in yourself** through the Annual Fund and gain satisfaction in shaping **the future of optometry**, one student at a time.

Contact Felicia Filbin, Director of Annual Giving  
(312) 949-7071 or [FFilbin@eyecare.ico.edu](mailto:FFilbin@eyecare.ico.edu).



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*Cover: Third-year Lyndsey Hunter, by Lloyd DeGrane*

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# A Message from the President

Dear Alumni, Students, Colleagues  
and Friends,

As I consider my experiences at ICO during my second year on the job as President, I am perhaps most impressed with the undeniable value of ICO alumni and their work. After all, the alumni of the Illinois College of Optometry are among the world's premier providers of outstanding vision care, and they should be proud of it. I certainly am. Alumni are the Illinois College of Optometry in their communities.

Serving in the community is one of our most important roles, whether it's within a neighborhood or city, within the profession itself, or within one's own institution. At ICO, community service at all these levels is a priority. Every day we work to further assist our constituent groups.

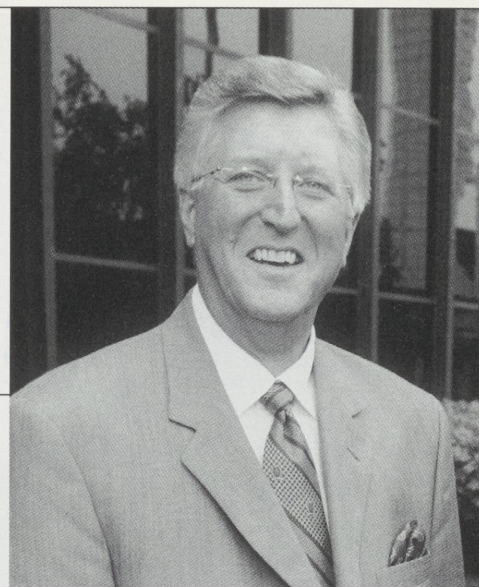
This focus is not only part of our College culture, it is the focus of the 2002-2003 Annual Report issue of *ICO Matters*. In this magazine we share with you the extent of our commitment to the local neighborhood and the larger community. We begin by saluting our Trustees, who lead the way for the rest of us with their commitment to the College, to their own local communities, to the country...and even beyond! Board member Donovan Grouch, OD '63, has spent more than half of his career volunteering time, experience and insight to advancing the profession through his work in optometric organizations (see p. 17).

Our students continually broaden the ICO community by volunteering to tutor local children, organizing gift drives for the needy at the holidays and volunteering to provide vision screenings around the city of Chicago. They also embrace service on a professional level. For example, third-year Deana Labrosse recently organized an ICO chapter of the Lions Club. At the launch meeting, 60 students showed up to join. (see p. 8)

But that's not all. Our students serve the local community through their work in the Illinois Eye Institute. As fourth-years they spend the majority of their time with patients. Yes, one reason they do this is to complete their professional educations. But the lesson they get in human relations and the rewards of service is equally as valuable.

Our faculty know it. They constantly seek opportunities to lend their expertise to members of the community. Indeed, there's so much activity toward this end, the College has now established a formal Charitable Services organization to oversee such service programs. For example, in collaboration with the recently formed Near South Rotary, ICO faculty are providing sports glasses to athletes at a local high school. See page 9 for more examples of this fine work.

Other exemplary behavior is demonstrated regularly by our alumni. You advocate for ICO by excelling in your profession and by being the place to go for patients to get the best out of their vision.



Informally, you advocate for ICO by serving your communities and raising your families. You advocate by recruiting new students, raising money for worthy causes and paying for your children to attend ICO.

You advocate wherever and whatever you do by accepting, fulfilling and often exceeding the higher expectations placed on those blessed with higher education. This is not just from outside pressure; it is a sense of responsibility that exists within.

To find countless examples of alumni professional achievements, community impact, paying forward and giving back, you need only look at the "Eye on Alumni" section of *ICO Matters*. This issue we follow Dr. Al Rosenbloom on his VOSH mission to Mexico (see p. 5). His work is only one example of the international service of our alumni.

Together we make a great college of optometry. You serve so well, both in the small and the big picture. You are the elite. You are the Illinois College of Optometry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Arol Augsburger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Arol Augsburger, OD



# A Word from Dr. Lawless

## Chairman of the Board of Trustees

The Annual Report edition of *ICO Matters* is not only an excellent time to reflect on the past year, but also an opportunity to gain perspective and rekindle our efforts for the future.

Without a doubt the most significant event of the recent past has been our "new" President taking the reigns of the institution. Dr. Arol Augsburger has proven to be a perfect fit for ICO. In just 16 months, this charismatic gentleman has artfully and sincerely communicated the story of ICO and optometry to a wide variety of political and professional audiences at the national, state and local level. As the "living logo" for the Illinois College of Optometry, he has embodied the College's unlimited potential. It has been marvelous to watch enthusiasm for and pride in ICO build under the leadership of this President.

At a personal level, I will always remember handing Dr. Augsburger our symbol of leadership of the College, the ICO mace. Transferring administrative authority was one of the highlights of my career and a wonderful moment in the history of the Illinois College of Optometry.

We enjoyed another rewarding moment last summer when the institution gained a Certificate of Need (CON) from the State of Illinois to allow construction of a Surgicenter on campus. This achievement underscores ICO's importance as a healthcare facility and is a key element in our continued affiliation with the University of Chicago. Their Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences may now expand using ICO's surgical suites for the department's medical staff and residents. This may result in a modest improvement in our financial status, but more importantly this project will enhance our exceptional clinical services program even more.

This edition of *ICO Matters* is focused on ICO's "communities." At the Board level, evidence of our out-



reach is seen in the election of Dr. Mike Stinziano and Mr. Chris Zorich as Trustees of the College. The Board continues to refine its governance process through the appointment of diverse and high profile individuals who bring a great deal of expertise, knowledge and enthusiasm to our team.

Finally, I want to call attention to the tremendous influence that ICO's huge alumni base has in the world. Think of all our alumni, laboring day after day in their practices, providing clinical optometric care and improving the health and vision of millions of people worldwide. Think of those who volunteer for various causes in optometry nationally and internationally, and who assist other service organizations in providing resources to advance special causes. Consider how many lives have been touched by ICO alumni over the years, and take note of the breadth of the ICO community. I trust you share my deep feeling of pride and honor.

Thank you for your work and for your membership in the ICO community. We are particularly grateful for the steady rise in alumni contributions. The Board of Trustees appreciates your participation in the continued progress of the College and in helping us meet our philanthropic and educational objectives.

*Thomas A. Lawless OD*

Thomas A. Lawless, OD '71



"This is the best way to see the world, in my opinion. It isn't tourism. It's getting out into the culture."

IRMA NORTH, OD '43

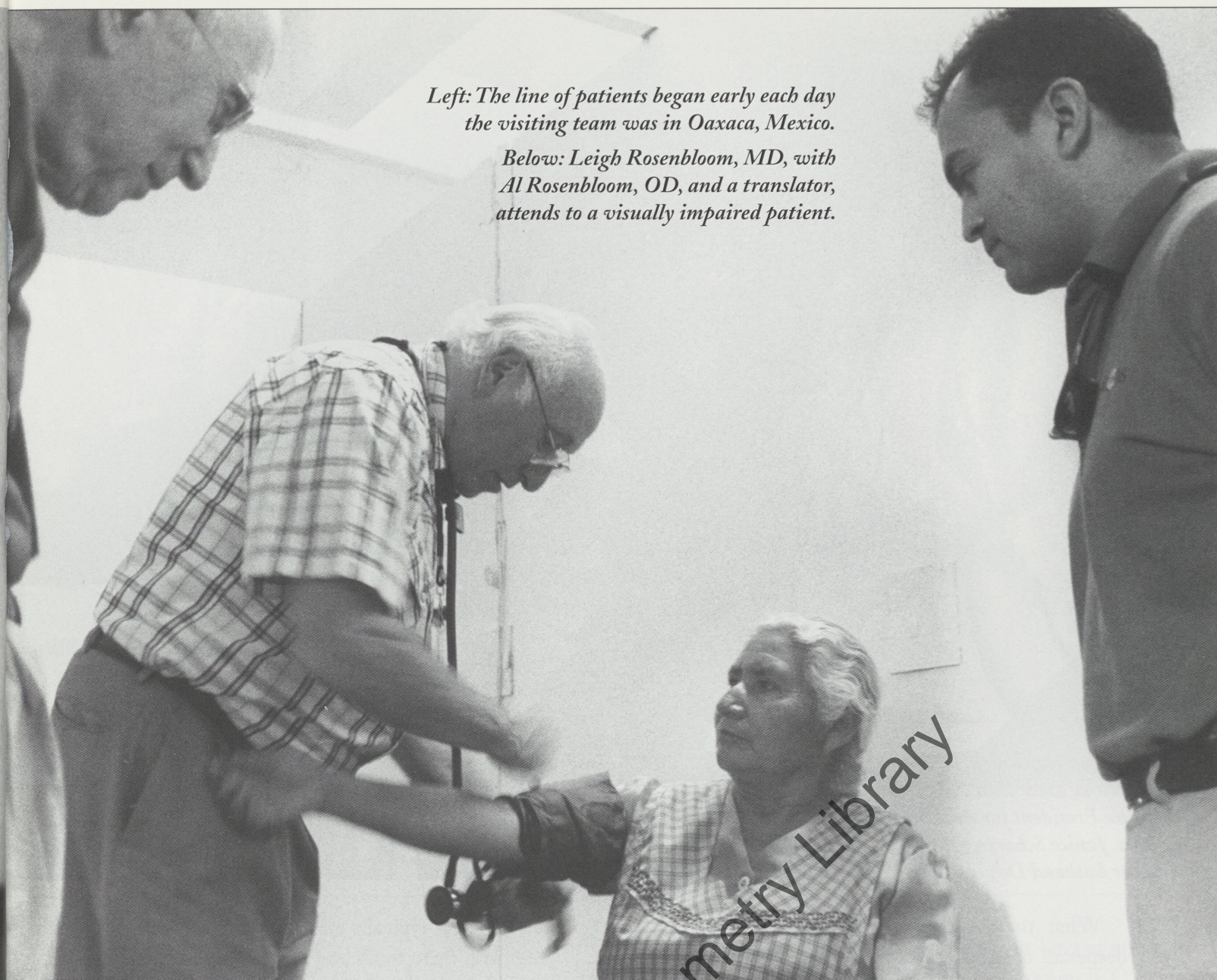
# On the Road Again

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*Left: The line of patients began early each day the visiting team was in Oaxaca, Mexico.*

*Below: Leigh Rosenbloom, MD, with Al Rosenbloom, OD, and a translator, attends to a visually impaired patient.*



## Al Rosenbloom, NICO '48 leads a VOSH mission to Mexico

Living in rustic accommodations, taking a beat-up bus to work, and seeing hundreds of patients a day may not be your idea of a vacation — but if it is, you should talk to Al Rosenbloom, NICO '48, former ICO Dean and President.

Dr. Rosenbloom organizes missions to far-flung climes under the auspices of Volunteer Optometric Services for Humanity — or, VOSH. Last November, he took a group of 32 people, including 10 optometrists and a support team, to Oaxaca, Mexico, where they treated more than 2,000 patients in one week. Participants from ICO included Janice Scharre, OD '76, Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Tracy Matchinski, OD '95, Chief of Low Vision Services, and Al Pouch, Director of Media Production. Other trips planned by the Illinois chapter of VOSH will visit such exotic spots as Morocco, Swaziland, Transylvania, Guatemala — and a homeless shelter in Joliet, Ill.

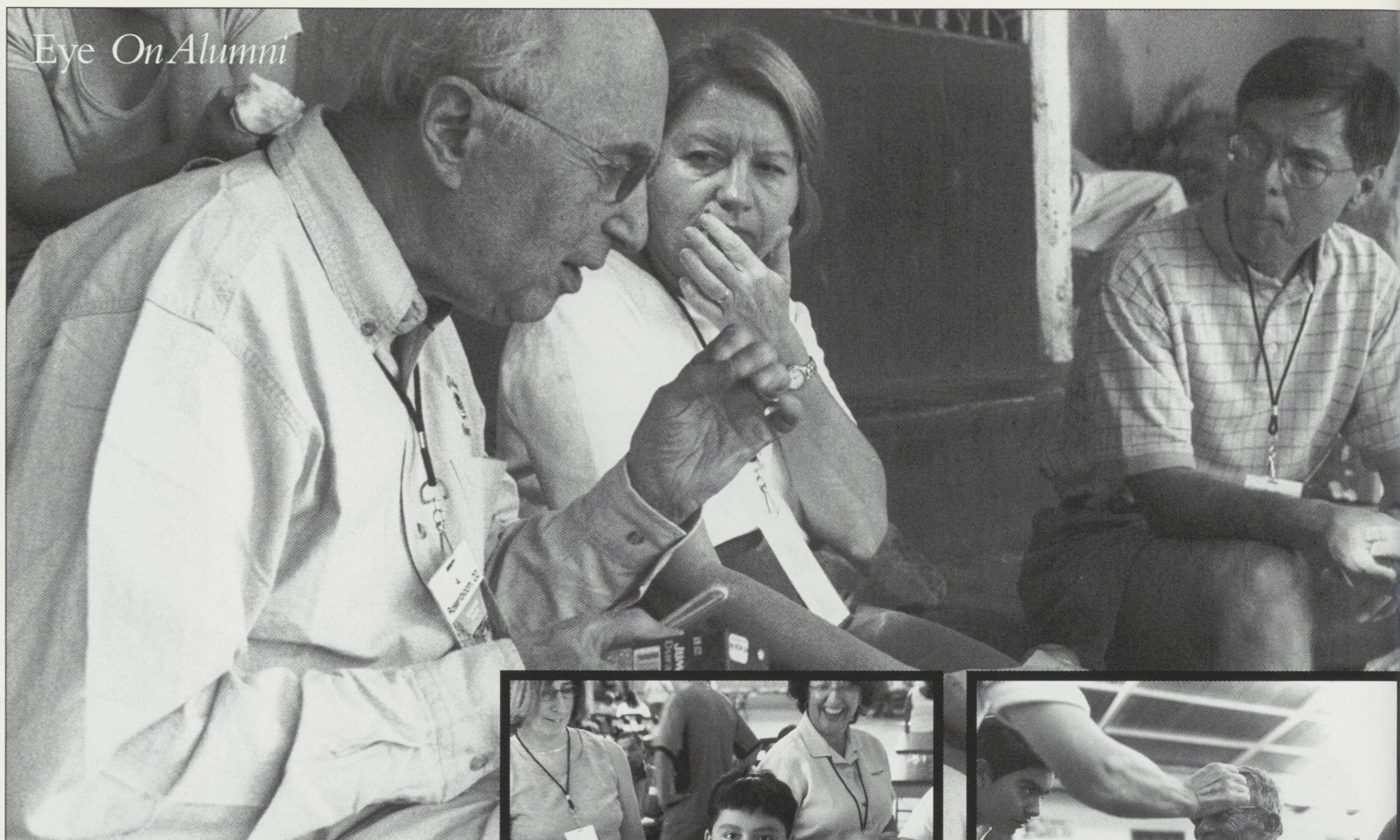


*Santo Domingo cathedral*



*A primitive skeleton typical of the Mexican Day of the Dead festivities.*





*Above: On a rare break, Dr. Rosenbloom chats with ICO Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Janice Scharre, OD '76, and her husband David.*



What these places share in common is people in desperate need of eye care. VOSH was founded on the principle that improving people's vision allows them to enjoy a better quality of life. They become more self-sufficient, productive, and just plain happier.

As simple as this may seem to some, it can be staggering for VOSH volunteers to observe the depth of need. Diane Galina, whose late husband, Seymour, was a 1948 NICO graduate and former Chairman of the ICO Board of Trustees, made the recent trip to Oaxaca. She tells of a woman who visited the clinic whose vision was so poor she couldn't thread a needle. Since the woman made her living as a seamstress, her situation was desperate. Volunteer optometrists tested her vision and then selected a pair of donated glasses that matched her prescription. She donned the new specs, took up a needle and a piece of thread, and, *voila*, she was back in business.

"The woman was in tears," Mrs. Galina recalls. "It gave her a new life. We saw so many examples of this."

In addition to the grueling work, VOSH volunteers pay their own expenses. And, because it's not always possible to find the necessary lenses in the inventory of donated

eyewear, ODs typically end up taking some prescriptions home with them to fill and return to the patient.

For Irma North, OD '43, the Oaxaca mission was her thirty-first with VOSH. "This is the best way to see the world, in my opinion. It isn't tourism. It's getting out into the culture."

The trips are also the best way, North says, for students and younger ODs to get a lot of experience, fast, with a broad range of pathologies. It's not unheard of for a team to treat 400 to 500 patients a day. For retired optometrists like she is (Dr. North sold her large contact lens practice more than a decade ago), the benefits are of a different kind. "When you're 82 and they call you up and say they need you," she says, "...talk about an ego boost, oh man!"

Dr. Rosenbloom, who has been on 30 missions, concurs. "The trips bring satisfaction beyond compare to those who provide such needy people with quality optometric care, often for the first time," he says. "The participants would unquestionably agree with Sir Winston Churchill's statement: 'You earn a living by what you do; you earn a life by what you give.'" ♦

— Dave Mulcahey



#### CLUB LIST:

- Student Association
- American Academy of Optometry Students
- American Optometric Student Association
- American Public Health Association
- Beta Sigma Kappa Honorary Society
- Canadian Club
- Contact Lens Society
- College of Vision Development Extension Program
- Fellowship of Christian Optometrists
- Gold Key Honorary Society
- ICO Mentors and Tutors
- Multicultural Association
- Muslim Student Association
- National Optometric Student Association
- Private Practice Club
- Resident Assistants
- Student Volunteers in Optometric Service to Humanity (SVOSH)
- Tomb and Key Honor Society
- State Optometry Clubs
- Yearbook

# Outside Class

For many students, extra-curricular means club activity

When third-year student, Deana Labrosse, began organizing an ICO chapter of the Lions Club last fall, she found many of her fellow students didn't know what the Lions really did. Before she could convince people to join the club, Ms. Labrosse realized she had to educate her peers about the widespread service initiatives the organization provides communities in need. "If you don't know, you can't be a part," she says.

Ms. Labrosse knew about the Lions because she had been the recipient of its good will on more than one occasion. As a child, she had amblyopia, or reduced vision in one eye. The Lions helped her family pay for vision therapy. "Because of the Lions, I was able to get care. Without it, I wouldn't have done well in school," she says. "My family also benefited from the Lions at Christmas time.

It was important for me to give back."

Her opportunity arrived in the form of ICO alumnus Dennis Cobler, OD '66. Ms. Labrosse met Dr. Cobler at ICO. As the former International Director of the Lions, he suggested a campus Lions Club. Ms. Labrosse was happy to help.

The response from ICO students was greater than even Ms. Labrosse had imagined. Sixty students attended the session and a charter night was set for the spring. Even the people from the Lions Club were excited.

Though the turnout for the Lions was particularly impressive, enthusiasm for community participation among ICO students is nothing new. According to Mark Colip, OD '92, Dean for Student Affairs, more than 75 percent of the student body participates

in club activities of one kind or another. There's a lot to choose from. ICO offers more than 20 different clubs, ranging from service to honorary to regional to professional. As part of the mission of the College, all students are automatically members of the American Optometric Association and participants in the American Student Optometric Association.

"It's a goal of this institution," Dr. Colip says, "to promote leadership within the profession and the community."

For Ms. Labrosse, who will be president of the new Lions Club and is involved in ICO's Contact Lens Society, "It's nice to get into the community and see the results of what you can do. The Lions Club makes people remember why they started." ♦

Eye On Students



Photo by Dan Kuruna





*Eileen Gable, OD, Medical Director for Charitable Services*

# Good Work

Charitable Services grows at ICO

The holidays of 2003 were a happy time for Eileen Gable, OD, Associate Professor in Optometry and ICO's Medical Director for Charitable Services. That's when several grants were awarded in support of key patient care initiatives at the Illinois Eye Institute.

"We received some wonderful holiday presents to help us serve patients in need," Dr. Gable says.

For example, Dominick Maino, OD '78, Professor in the Pediatric/Binocular Vision Service, learned that a \$30,000 award had been made by the Grant Healthcare Foundation to the Developmental



Disabilities Service (DDS). He had been spinning his wheels looking for money to pay for polycarbonate lenses — the most impact-resistant lenses made — to provide to patients in DDS. With the Grant Healthcare Foundation gift, he can not only distribute safety glasses, Dr. Maino can purchase new examination equipment and provide vision therapy for needy children. Still, he says, “the majority of the money will go to the much-needed protective eyewear.”

Indeed, once the grant became effective on January 1, 2004, faculty in the department of Pediatric and Binocular Vision immediately began writing prescriptions for glasses. Within two weeks, they had distributed 26 pairs.

The breakthrough for Dr. Maino came when he received the new “Funding Focus” newsletter produced by ICO’s Office of Institutional Advancement. With the help of David Korajczyk, Director of Grant Programs and editor of the newsletter, as well as Dr. Gable and Barbara Hamu, Director of Operations at the Illinois Eye Institute, Dr. Maino was able to write an attractive grant proposal within a couple of weeks.

“It was a great process,” Dr. Maino says. “I identified the need; David identified the funder and we all worked together to land the grant.”

The process was part of an increasing effort at the Illinois College of Optometry to secure support for populations in need. Though this focus has always been part of the mission of the institution, it wasn’t formalized until 2001 when funding of nearly half-a-million dollars was given for the Vision of Hope program to provide eyecare to uninsured patients at the Illinois Eye Institute.

More recently, the Charitable Services team also celebrated grants from the Bowman Lingle Trust for the Vision of Hope Health Alliance and from the George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities toward the Learning Disability Clinic.

“Vision of Hope was so successful,” says Dr. Gable, “it just made sense to move forward with other projects. Now everyone in the College is technically involved. Every clinical service has some component of charitable giving within it. There’s a lot of potential here.” ♦

## Current Charitable Services Projects

### VISION OF HOPE HEALTH ALLIANCE

Principle investigator: Eileen Gable

Participating clinicians: IEI attending faculty

Michael Reese Health Trust . . . . . \$25,000

Washington Square Health Foundation . . . . \$17,500

Bowman Lingle Trust . . . . . \$10,000

*The Bowman Lingle Trust made a grant of \$10,000 toward the Vision of Hope Health Alliance. Lingle Trust funding will cover comprehensive examinations and follow-up services to qualified patients.*

### DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICE

Principle investigator: Dominic Maino

Participating clinicians: Pediatric and Binocular Vision Faculty

Grant Healthcare Foundation . . . . . \$30,000

### LEARNING DISABILITY CLINIC

Principle investigator: Brian Caden

Participating clinicians: Pediatric and Binocular Vision Faculty

Pearle Vision Foundation . . . . . \$10,000

George M. Eisenberg

Foundation for Charities . . . . . \$2,000

*The George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities has awarded \$2,000 in support of the Learning Disability Clinic to provide psycho-educational testing as well as vision and/or visual perceptual therapy to those patients who are identified as having academic along with associated vision problems. This grant supplements the funding that was recently awarded by the Pearle Vision Foundation.*

### LOW VISION PROGRAM

Principle investigator: Derrald Taylor

Participating clinicians: Low Vision faculty

Lions of Illinois Foundation . . . . . \$25,000

*The Lions of Illinois Foundation recently increased to \$25,000 per year its grant supporting low vision services at the Illinois School for Visually Impaired.*

### SPORTS GOGGLES AT DUNBAR H.S.

Principle investigator: Eileen Gable

Participating clinicians: Primary Care faculty

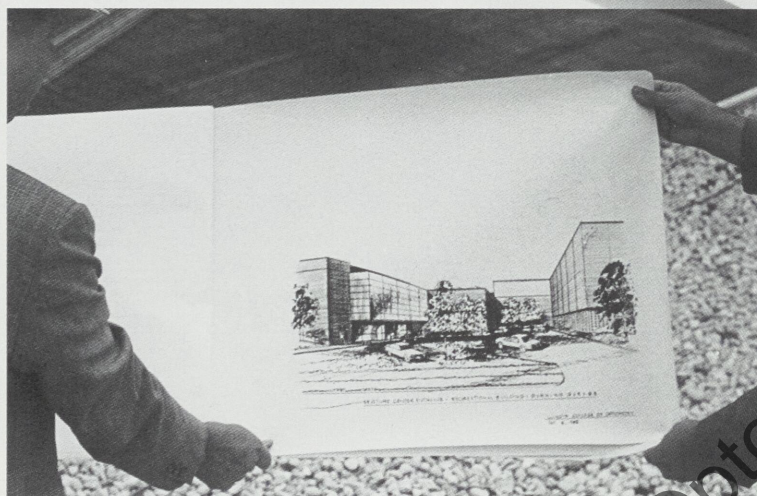
Near South Rotary . . . . . \$750

**Note:** In addition to the principle investigators listed for each Charitable Project, there are clinical faculty who participate in patient care. Because of the number, it would be impractical to list the individual faculty that work on each project. The fact that there are too many people to list each individually speaks well of our institution’s commitment to our community.



# Focal Point

Picturing ICO  
and its community

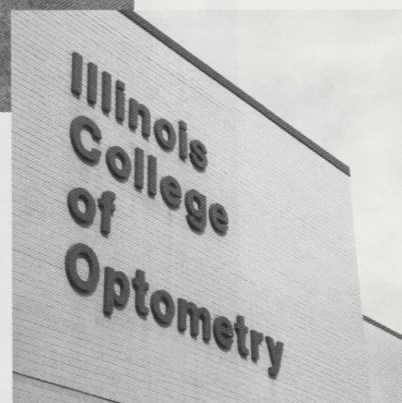


It was 50 years ago that the Illinois College of Optometry was officially established on the site of the former Chicago College of Optometry. Located in the Bronzeville neighborhood on Chicago's South Side, the College has grown with the community. Over the past half-century, new dorms, educational

facilities and the Illinois Eye Institute have all been added. Next up is the planning for a state-of-the-art Surgicenter to be constructed in partnership with the University of Chicago.

The surrounding community has also grown. Those who have been at ICOSid since the 1970s remember barbed wireme





protecting their cars in the adjacent parking lot and increasing blight dampening to the area.

Today, however, improvement is everywhere. The city has invested time and money in cleaning up the near-South Side, and ICO has reaffirmed its commitment to the neighborhood by pursuing its

own development and participating in local activity.

So much has happened over the years. Take a look at us now!



# Focal Point

The past two decades have been particularly progressive in terms of expansion of ICO's facilities. The Illinois College of Optometry Eye Clinic moved into its own space in the 1980s and was renamed the Illinois Eye Institute. In the 1990s, a modern residence hall was added across the street from the main campus.



Below  
the h  
Chri  
were  
Kara  
Hay  
Mat  
Jessi



*Below: Students find time to celebrate the holidays with the ritual "12 bars of Christmas." Stopping at "The Gin Mill" were (L to R, Front) Shmyla Chaudhry, Karen Barbadillo, Michelle Fitzpatrick, Hayon Kim; (Back) Sam Dhaliwal, Matt Kunkel, Mandip Gill. Photo by Jessica Tran.*

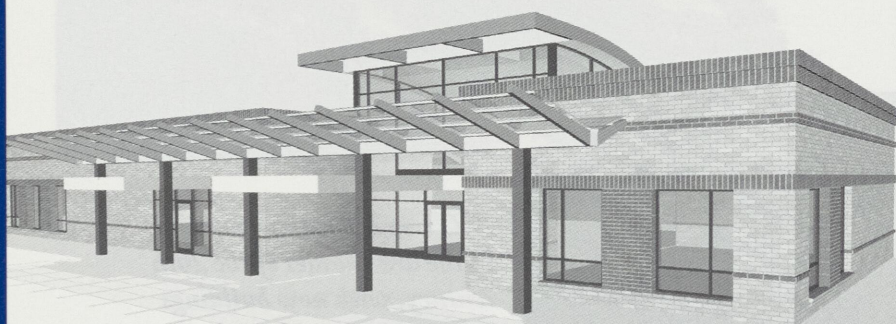


*ICO was a construction zone in the last decades of the 20th century, with new buildings for a student residence hall and the Illinois Eye Institute.*





# Focal Point



Many ICO alumni remember the days of commuting west to the Illinois Institute of Technology to share amenities such as a dormitory, cafeteria and library services. Since then, both campuses have expanded, and though ICO provides every facility the students need, they still benefit from IIT's new student center.

Others may remember the days when ICO's campus was relatively isolated in a neighborhood that was suffering from urban degeneration. But times have changed. New development surrounding the College has created residential housing on the market for prices well into the 6-figure range. The Bronzeville neighborhood has become one of the most up-and-coming areas in Chicago. And to the north, shopping, restaurants and clubs are steadily moving toward campus as the near-South Side is revitalized.

Today, students such as third-year Lyndsay Hunter are fully integrated in the community. She tutors local students at the Baptist church across the street, and walks to do everyday errands. "I enjoy living here," she says.



*(Clockwise from left) Artist rendering of the new Surgicenter; The old Comisky Park renamed US Cellular Field; Prices soar well into the 6-figures for new construction across the street from ICO; A "muffler" quiets the sound of the el as it passes through The McCormick Tribune Campus Center at IIT. Opened in the fall of 2003, it was designed by Dutch architect and Pritzker Prize Laureate Rem Koolhaas; ICO student Lyndsey Hunter lives at the ICO residence hall, serves as resident head and tutors local children at the Baptist church across the street.*



# Town and Gown

## ICO makes a good neighbor

Consider the case of Maxine White, an octogenarian South Sider who has been going to the Illinois Eye Institute for decades. Not long after she had cataract surgery, routine tests showed high pressure readings — often a sign of glaucoma — in her right eye.

As a result, a battery of new tests with state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment were begun. The results? Ms. White didn't have glaucoma.

This episode, says Ms. White's son-in-law, Leonard McGee, "demonstrates the way new diagnostic equipment can really help people, and save them from having to take medication unnecessarily. My mother-in-law is eighty-some years old — I don't want her taking medicine she doesn't have to take."

Mr. McGee, as it happens, takes a special interest in the way IEI treats people such as his mother-in-law. He is a member of ICO's Community Advisory Board and president of the Gap Community Organization. In his view, ICO has been a very good partner for the community. "It's a symbiotic relationship," he says. "Students need to see patients. And because there is a lot of chronic illness [in the community], students have greater opportunities to learn." Moreover, Mr. McGee adds, IEI has provided valuable service to a lot of people who can't afford care from a private practice. "Where else are you going to be able to get an eye exam that fits your budget?"

Ever since Mr. McGee and his wife moved to the neighborhood in the 1980s, he's been impressed by ICO's inclusiveness. When the College began to acquire property to build new dorms, he says, it consulted the community. ICO has increased its scholarship aid to underrepresented ethnic groups in its student body, established an outreach program with the nearby Douglas Elementary School, and included community members on the internal review board on research.

Mr. McGee anticipates even greater collaboration between the College and the community in the future. As the neighborhood grows and changes, ICO will continue to be an asset — and vice versa. It is, Mr. McGee says, "a win/win situation." ♦

— Dave Mulcahey



*Rochelle and Leonard McGee*

Photo by Dan Kuruna



# A Career of Service to Others

Donovan Crouch sees the profession of optometry as community service

When many people think of community service, they think of volunteering for local charitable organizations. Donovan L. Crouch, OD '63, is no exception. A service-minded man, he joined his town's Jaycees the year he graduated from the Illinois College of Optometry 41 years ago.

But Dr. Crouch has also dedicated himself to serving the profession of optometry. Through his participation in the Iowa Optometric Association, the North Central States Optometric Council, the American Optometric Association, the National Board of Examiners in Optometry, and the Board of Directors of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, Dr. Crouch has contributed to the profession at the local, state, regional, national and international levels.

"As soon as I felt I had established my practice, I began to actively participate in the professional organizations," Dr. Crouch says. "Volunteering in the community, I felt I was helping those immediately around me. Volunteering for the associations, I am helping increase the scope of optometry at large. I felt it was important to listen to and have a voice in discussions that determine the future of the profession."

Toward that end, Dr. Crouch has volunteered for the Iowa Optometric Association for 26 years. He has served in eight different positions, including President from 1988-1989. Dr. Crouch's involvement with the association aided in the passing of Iowa's DPA law in 1979 and it's TPA law in 1985, when he was the Secretary/Treasurer.

Dr. Crouch currently serves on the Legislative Committee of the IOA. His involvement with legislators and his work in

educating the public about the full scope of optometry was instrumental in attaining Iowa's current level of licensure. In addition, Dr. Crouch has lobbied for optometry on Capitol Hill since 1988, when he joined the AOA Congressional Delegation from Iowa. Also at the state level, Dr. Crouch served as a member of the Iowa State Board of Optometry Examiners for nine years, serving as Continuing Education Chair and Vice-Chair. For all of his meritorious service, the Iowa Optometric Association recognized Dr. Crouch as Optometrist of the Year in 1991 and he was also awarded Optometrist of the Year by the Heart of America Contact Lens Society in 2000.

At the regional level, Dr. Crouch has volunteered in the North Central States Optometric Council, holding seven different positions. He first served as a council member in 1987 and later in 1996 was elected President. Currently, he serves as a North Central member in the Midwest Vision Congress and Expo Steering Committee and is Chairman of the Education Committee. He also was influential in North Central relocating its annual conference from Minnesota to Chicago.

Nationally, Dr. Crouch has served on the Board of Directors for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry since 2001. Within the American Optometric Association, Dr. Crouch has served on the Communication Executive Committee and the Values and Ethics Committee for nearly 10 years. He also has been a Sustaining Member of the American Optometric Foundation since 1972.

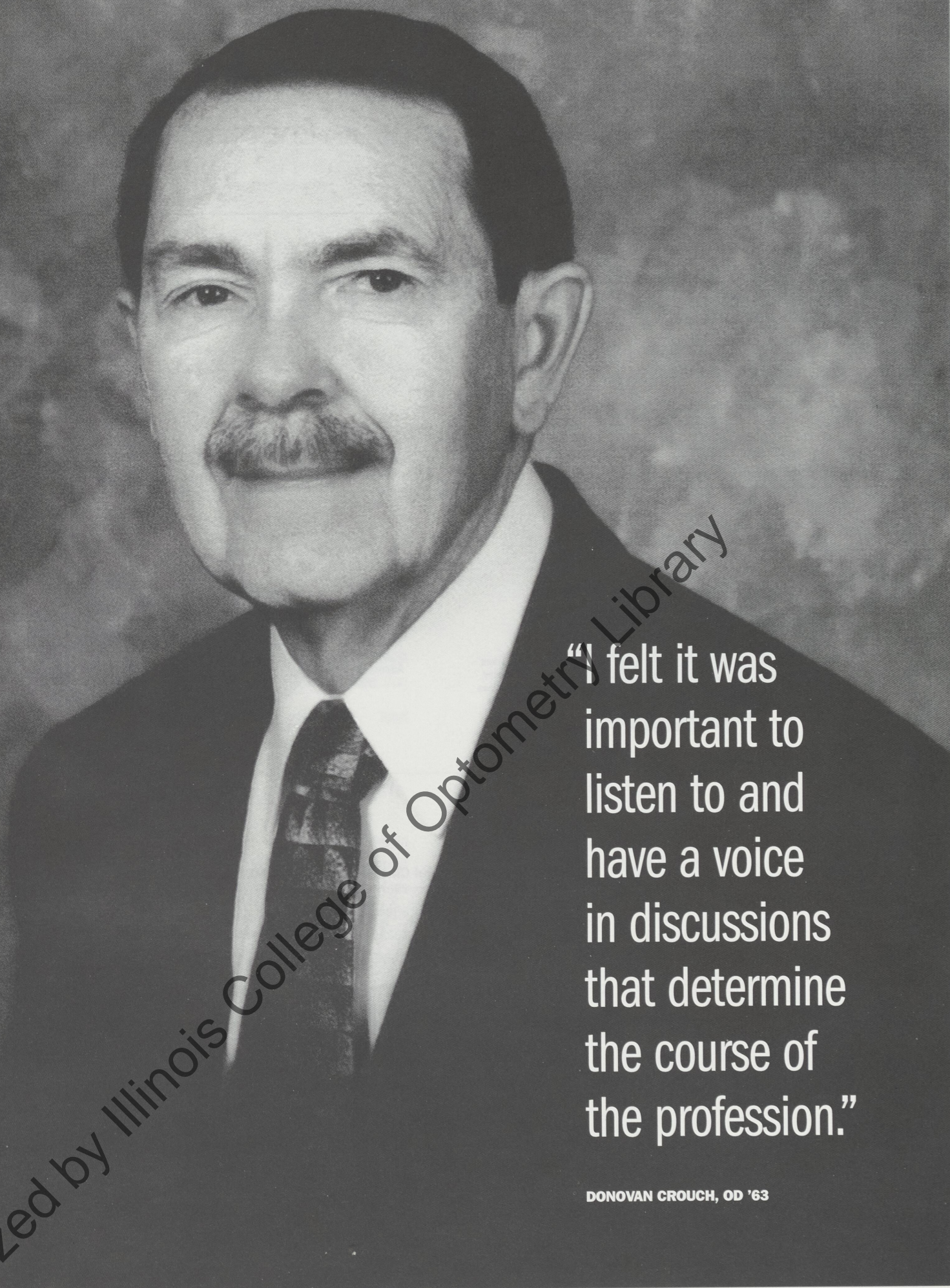
Not to limit himself to domestic activity, Dr. Crouch also has participated in optometry on the international level, serving since 1997 on the Board of Directors of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry. He was elected President in 2001-2002.

Of this work, Dr. Crouch says, "I feel fortunate to have been in a position to volunteer my time. It helps me be a better person and a better optometrist. I have never wanted to stand still; there's always more to do, and I like to be involved."

Indeed, Dr. Crouch is also involved with the Illinois College of Optometry. He serves on the Board of Trustees and is completing his second term as President of the Illinois College of Optometry's Alumni Council. He was recognized for his support to his alma mater with the Presidential Medal of Honor from ICO, and the Alumni Conference Room was recently dedicated in his family's honor.

This recognition and the benefits of volunteering have deeply touched Dr. Crouch. "I have gotten 10-times more than I have given," he says. "There's a great deal of satisfaction knowing that you have been involved in advancing optometry. We are a small profession, and I have a high regard for all my colleagues. That's what this profession is all about." ♦





"I felt it was important to listen to and have a voice in discussions that determine the course of the profession."

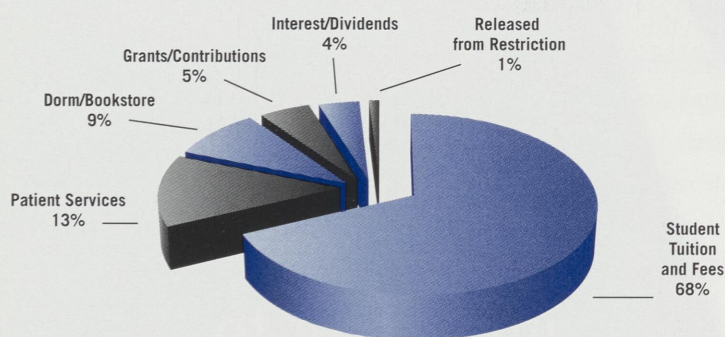
DONOVAN CROUCH, OD '63



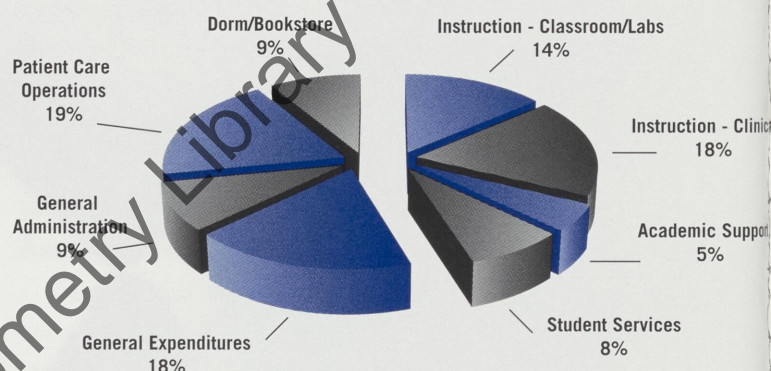
The following pie charts summarize the Illinois College of Optometry's unrestricted operating revenue and expenditures from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003.

## 2002-2003 Financial Report

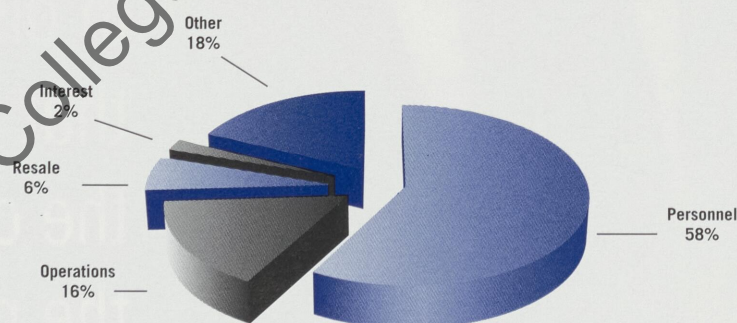
Unrestricted Operating Revenue: \$25,347,457



Unrestricted Operating Expenditures: \$24,280,026



FY03 Use of Funds, Natural Classification: \$24.3 Million





This report summarizes the Illinois College of Optometry's unrestricted operating revenue and expenditures from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003.

# 2002-2003 Financial Report

	Percent of Operating Activity	2003 Total Unrestricted
<b>REVENUE GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>		
Tuition and Fees	67.6%	\$17,124,211
Patient Care Services and Materials	12.9%	3,260,641
Grants and Contributions	4.3%	1,100,388
Other	1.0%	245,998
Interest and Dividends	4.4%	1,107,107
Auxiliary Enterprises	9.1%	2,308,484
Funds Released from Restriction	0.8%	200,628
Total	100.0%	\$25,347,457
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Instruction	31.7%	\$7,693,640
Academic Support	5.4%	1,312,498
Student Services	8.1%	1,959,846
Patient Care Operations	18.6%	4,517,046
Auxiliary Enterprises	9.3%	2,261,175
Institutional Support	26.9%	6,535,821
Total	100.0%	\$24,280,026
Change in Net Assets From Operating Activities		\$ 1,067,431
Non Operating Activities		\$ 118,026
Change in Net Assets		\$ 1,185,457
Net Assets at Beginning of Year		\$18,195,652
Net Assets at End of Year		\$19,381,109



Listed below are the Lifetime Giving and Annual Giving honor rolls. Annual giving reflects gifts made between July 1, 2002 and June 30, 2003. Every gift is very much appreciated and is vitally important to our success. We are grateful for your generosity.

# 2003 Honor Roll of Donors

## Lifetime Giving

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**\$100,000 and above**

Estate of Dolly Adams  
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Cole Vision Corporation  
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Vision Care

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Gift in-kind donors have made non-cash contributions to ICO. These gifts include eyeglasses, books, laboratory equipment and other tangible items.

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We thank all of our donors for supporting the Illinois College of Optometry. Your generosity enhances our ability to attract and nurture the most promising young scholars; to provide the communities we serve with the finest optometric care available; and to proudly serve to the optometric profession through our commitment to excellence in health care education.

### Leadership Circle

Leadership Circle donors make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more to the college during the fiscal year. Members of this distinguished giving society share the honor and recognition of playing a leadership role in supporting and enhancing the educational and clinical programs at ICO.

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*Remember When...*



### **The Early Days**

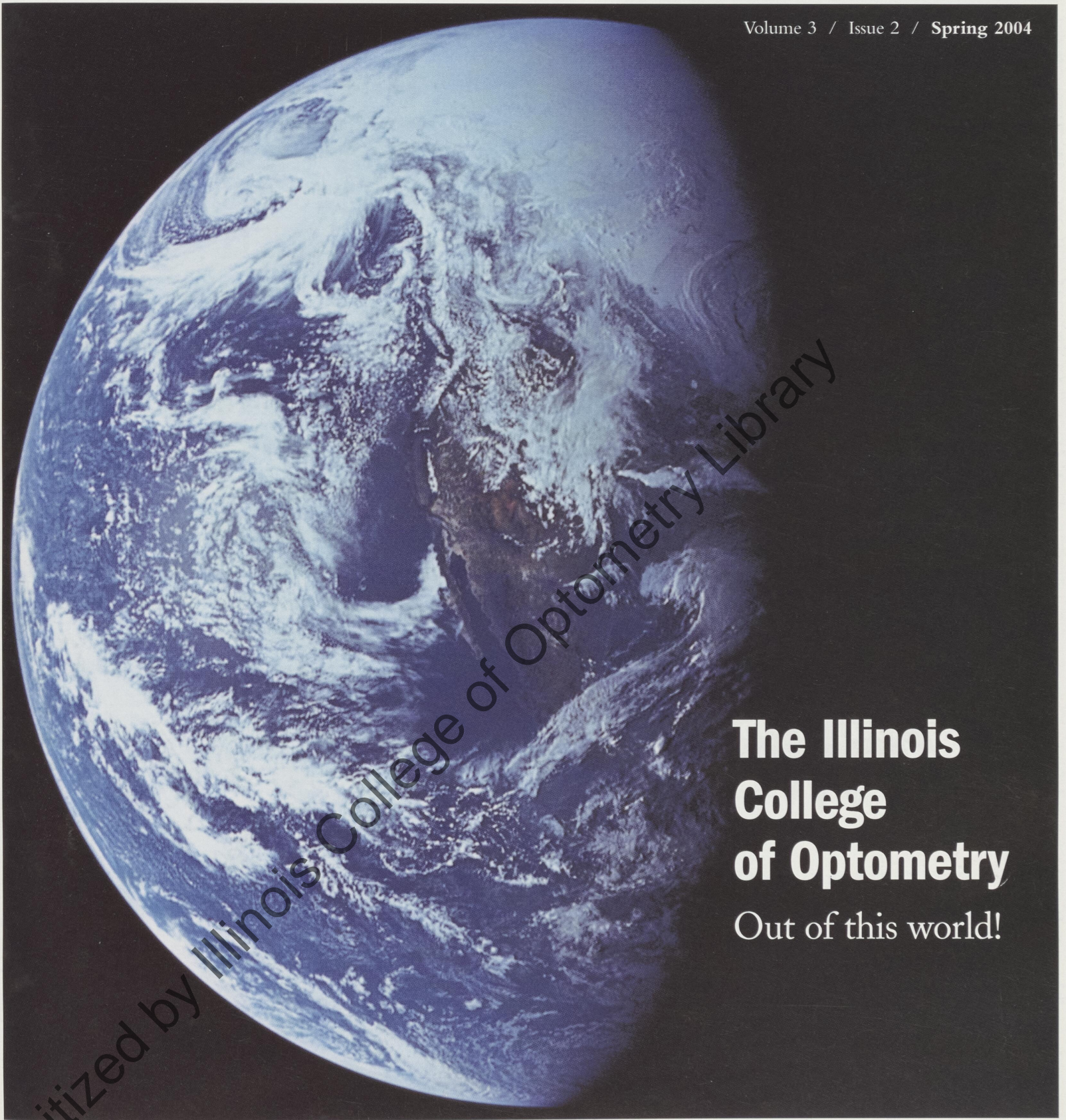
An architect's vision of the original Michigan Avenue construction of the Illinois College of Optometry, circa the 1950s.



# ICO *Matters*

Magazine of the Illinois College of Optometry  
and the Illinois Eye Institute

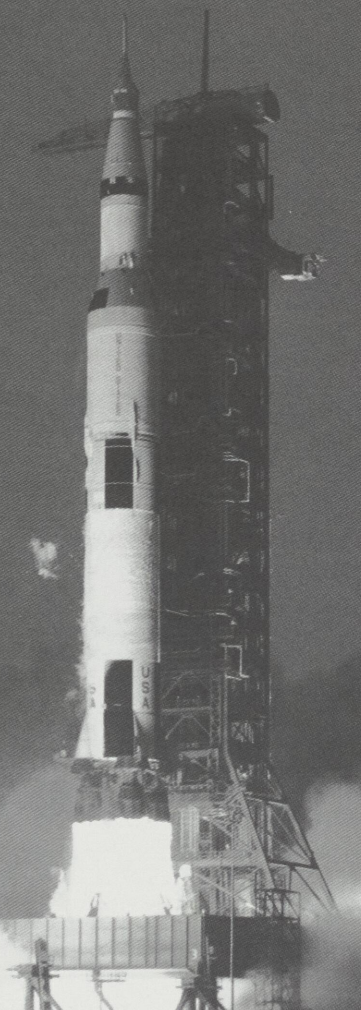
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## We Stand Corrected

In our story about the VOSH trip to Mexico led by Al Rosenbloom, NICO '48 (Winter 2004), we misspelled the name of a participating physician. Dr. Leigh Rosenblum does not share the same last name as Dr. Rosenbloom. We apologize for the error.



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[www.ico.edu](http://www.ico.edu)

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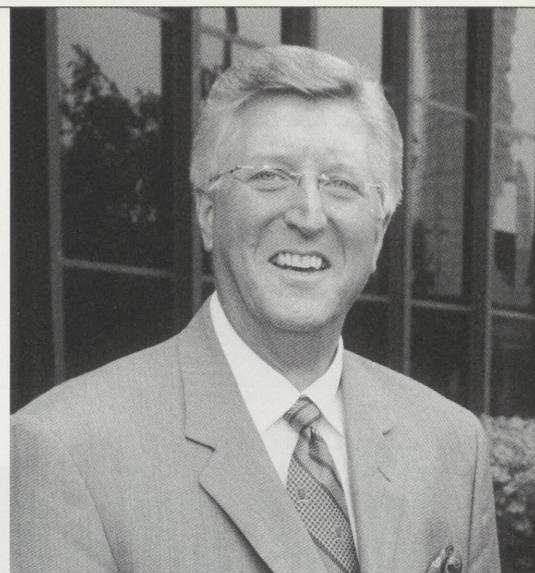
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*Front cover: Photo of Earth, taken aboard Apollo 13, April 11-17, 1970. Mission Commander Jim Lovell will be the guest speaker at Reunion, Nov. 12-14, 2004. Image 70-029A-01B, courtesy of NASA.*

# [www.ico.edu](http://www.ico.edu)



# A Message from the President



Dear Alumni, Colleagues, Students and Friends,

I've had quite an education during my first two years at ICO. As an optometrist who has been around optometric education for more than 30 years, I thought I knew a lot about ICO's educational and patient care programs and its commitment to developing leaders in the profession and in the communities where we live and work. But I have discovered there is much more to ICO than I imagined.

We trace our institutional history back to 1872. Just when our alumni began meeting and organizing to honor graduating classes or to see how they could help the College is unclear. But organize they did, and today ICO boasts the largest network of alumni in optometry, with 7,881 graduates scattered all over the world.

This community is represented by members who volunteer to sit on the ICO Alumni Council. Currently the Council is committed to:

- **Keeping in Touch**

We will keep alumni in touch with each other and with the College through *ICO Matters*, and through our website: [www.ico.edu](http://www.ico.edu)

- **Advocacy and Student Recruitment**

We will tell ICO's story to lawmakers who define optometry, and to prospective students who wish to receive an education geared toward patient care. This outreach is critical to our alumni tradition.

- **Student Programming and Leadership**

The Alumni Council and individual alumni will support such student-related activities as welcome programs for new students, externships, the Practice Opportunity Symposium, scholarships for exceptionally talented students and for students historically under-represented in our student body, and more!

- **Recognition**

The Council will support the annual Awards Ceremony, where awards are given to distinguished alumni leaders, community servants, and outstanding teachers. This year Apollo 13 Commander Jim Lovell will be our noted guest speaker at the event. I hope you will plan to be there.

- **Alumni Benefits and Services**

We will reach out through ICO receptions at regional meetings of optometrists, continuing education programs tailored to the needs of the alumni community, online access to ICO's library and bookstore, and beginning this year, free listing on our email network to keep in contact with classmates and fellow alumni.

I want to thank all of you for your interest in and support of ICO. Many of you are doing your part to carry on the selfless traditions of our earliest alumni. With all I've learned about the College during these last two years, I promise to be a good steward of your traditions, and I will work to make ICO and its alumni even stronger.

Sincerely,

Arol Augsburger, OD



# To the Editor

Hello ICO:

The last *ICO Matters* magazine was excellent in detailing what is changing at ICO. However, it was difficult to figure out where all these new facilities are being built. How about a campus or site map for those of us who haven't been to Chicago in a while! ...Last I remember, Brady Hall was surrounded by auto "chop shops"!

Sincerely,  
Dale L. Rodrigue, OD '82  
Augusta, ME

*Here you go, Dr. Rodrigue: the streets surrounding ICO. Though our pictures tell a thousand words, they only show so much. We encourage you to come and see us and the city for yourself.*

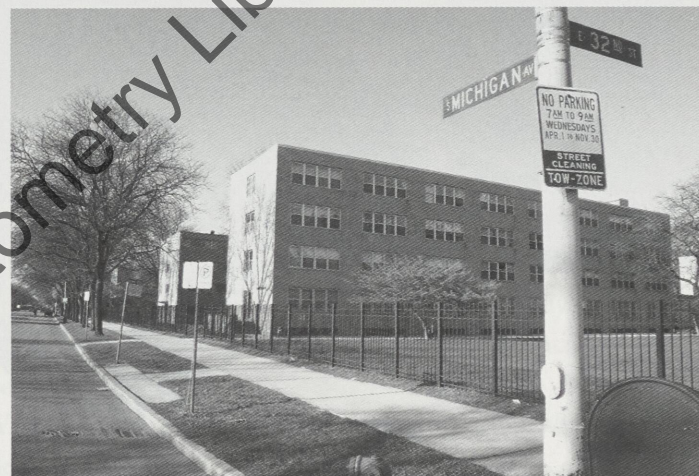
*The entrance to the Illinois College of Optometry, Indiana Avenue, between 32nd and 33rd streets*



*The corner of 32nd St. and Indiana Ave., looking southeast across the street from ICO*



*The corner of 32nd St. and Indiana Ave., looking northwest across the street from the Illinois Eye Institute*

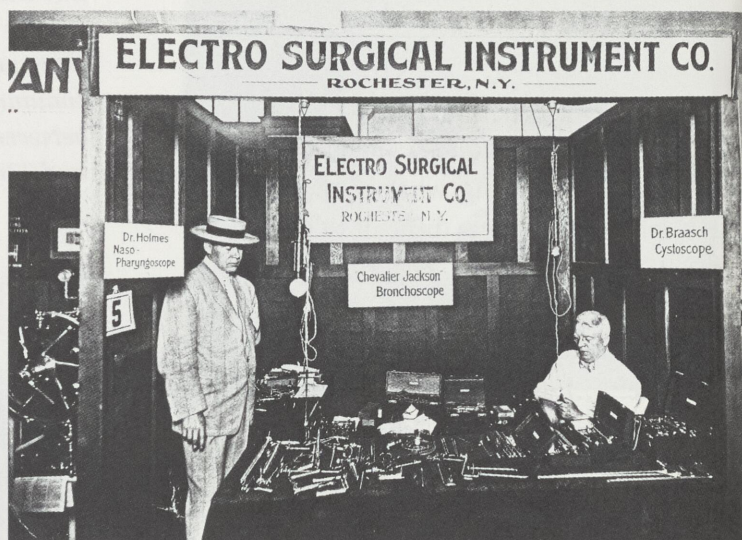
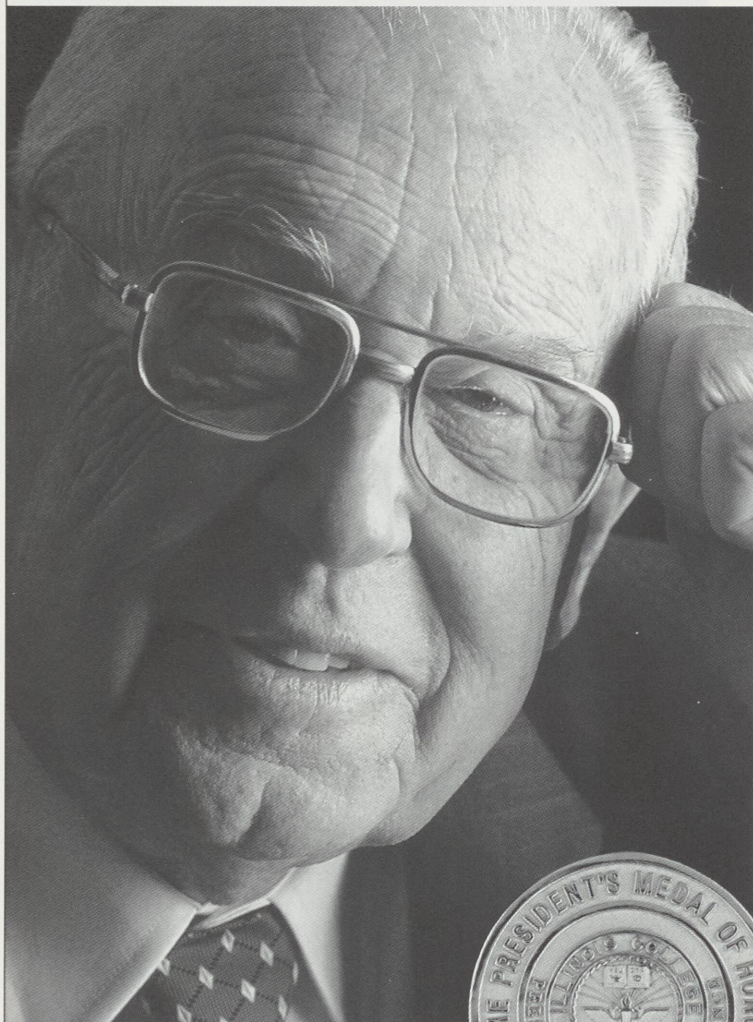


*The corner of 32nd St. and Michigan Ave., looking southwest in the direction of the Illinois Eye Institute*



*The corner of 33rd St. and Michigan Ave., looking southwest of ICO*





*Welch Allyn partner Dr. Francis Welch, who died in 1915, is pictured far right*

Retired chairman of medical products maker, Welch Allyn, is cited for excellence in education and patient care activities related to optometry and vision care.

## Dr. William G. Allyn Receives ICO's President's Medal of Honor





*William Noah Allyn, co-founder of Welch Allyn*

*ophthalmoscope, circa 1915*



*(l to r): Peter Soderberg, William G. Allyn, Bill Allyn, Lew Allyn*

Two guys meet through work. One is in design, one in sales. Over time, they go into business together. They set up a partnership, Welch Allyn, to produce and distribute ophthalmoscopes, the latest in eyecare equipment.

It's 1915. Everything starts off great. Then, within the first year, one of the partners, Dr. Francis A. Welch, the designer on the team, unexpectedly dies. The other partner, William Noah Allyn, the salesman, finds himself with a burgeoning business on his hands...his sole hands.

Undeterred, Allyn goes on to build Welch Allyn into one of the most successful eyecare product manufacturers in the world, and one of the few privately held companies left in the industry. Out of loyalty and respect, he never changes the Welch Allyn name.

But, that's just like an Allyn. If you ask Allyn's son, William G., 96, how the business has survived all these years and through such events as the Great Depression, the era of corporate mergers and the technology revolution, he says, "Building relationships has been the key. That's the most important thing to longevity."

Indeed, solid relationships seems to be key to everything at Welch Allyn. The strength of the family relationship is evident in the fact that so many members go, unpressured, into the family business; in addition to himself, W.G.'s two sons, Bill and Lew, and his son-in-law, Peter Soderberg, are executives at Welch Allyn. Three grandsons have also joined the company.

The strength of their dedication to others is seen in the fact that W.G., who had earned his degree in optometry from the University of Rochester in 1934, spent his weekends providing free eyecare examinations to company employees and their families.

"Dad is a very caring person," son Lew explains. "He did it because he cared, and he got to know people. He developed relationships."

Though W.G. retired in the 1970s, the corporate culture he and his father established at Welch Allyn clearly lives on. In 2003 the company was named one of *Fortune* magazine's 100 best companies to work for.

Why? Because, Lew says, "People are important. At the end of the day, that's it."

That's also why W.G. Allyn was awarded the Illinois College of Optometry's President's Medal of Honor last winter. ICO and Welch Allyn have shared a relationship older than anyone can immediately remember. According to Dr. Arol Augsburger, President of ICO, "Dr. Allyn has touched the lives of countless people. We at the Illinois College of Optometry are honored to recognize him for his dedication to the optometric profession as well as to his community."

And W.G. couldn't have been more pleased. "I'm so happy to be connected to ICO," he says. "I am thrilled, one hundred percent. I share this medal with the members of the family."

But that's just like an Allyn. ♦



## Fame

ICO President Arol Augsburger, OD, has been named chair of the 2004 National Optometry Hall of Fame selection committee. He succeeds Dr. Richard M. Hill in this position. In addition to the chair, the committee includes representatives from ASCO, COVD, NOA, AOA, and AAO.

The 2004 ceremony for the Hall of Fame will be held at noon on Thursday, Oct. 14, at the Cleveland Convention Center. For more information, call (800) 999-4939.



# Grad Stats

**Number of graduates in the 2004 Commencement:** 165

**Date:** Saturday, May 22, 2004

**Time:** 1 p.m.

**Location:** Rockefeller Chapel on the University of Chicago campus

**Before:** Faculty brunch, sponsored by the office of the Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs, across the street from the Chapel at Ida Noyes Hall

**After:** Reception honoring the Class of 2004 at Ida Noyes Hall

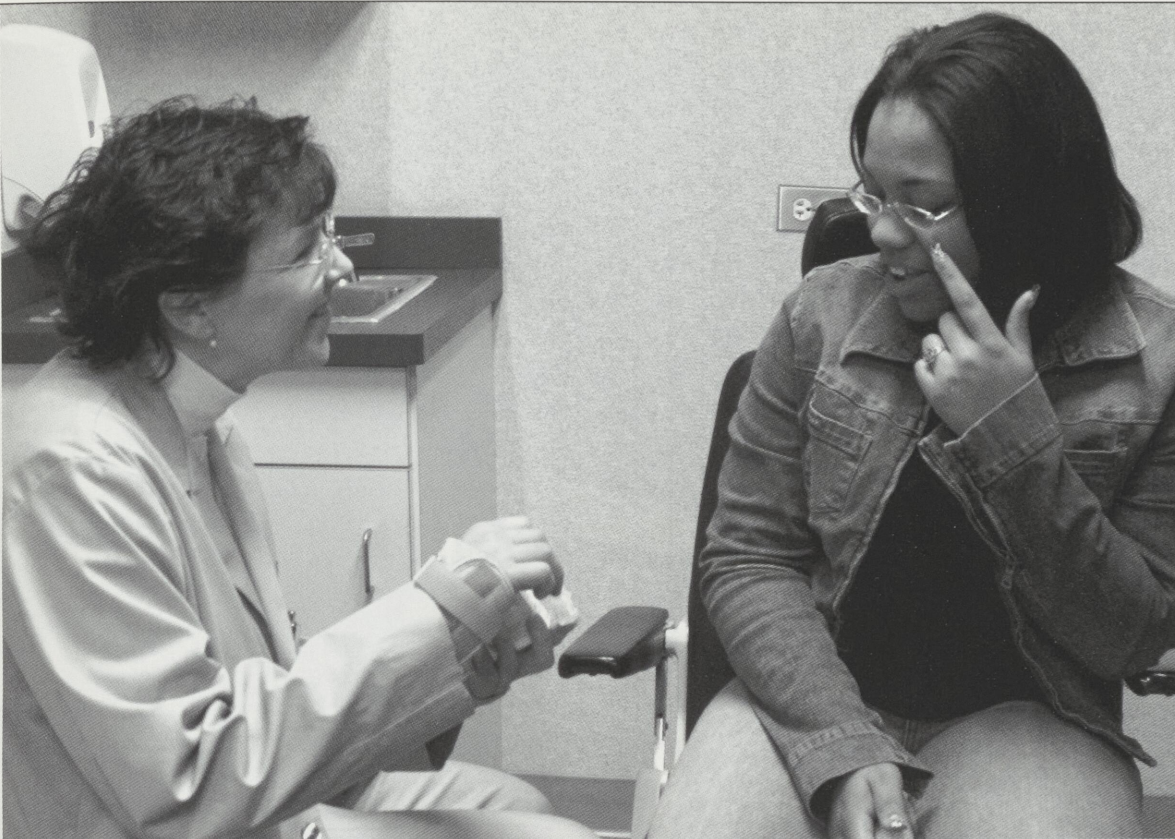
**Speaker:** Bruce E. Onofrey, OD '82, expert on the management of ocular disease and the use of pharmaceutical agents

**Of Note:** 10 graduates were hooded by a family member who is an ICO alumnus

**Related Activities:** Capstone/Wednesday, May 19: Commencement rehearsal, professional fair of optometric-related companies, award presentations, commencement dinner, cap & gown and yearbook distribution

**Commencement Banquet:** Thursday, May 20; Cocktails, dinner and dancing at Adler Planetarium





*Dr. Eileen Gable (l)  
with her patient,  
Diona Donelson*

# Looking Down the Road

Eye Institute  
patient  
observes  
optometry  
with an eye  
toward her  
future

Diona Donelson isn't sure exactly what she wants to do in life, but she knows she wants to work in a healthcare profession. She's only a high school sophomore, at Lindblom on Chicago's South Side, but already she's weighing the pros and cons of various medical specialties. One of her aunts, a nurse, is on the verge of being certified as a pediatrician, and she's been encouraging Diona to go in that direction. Sometimes, though, Diona thinks she might want to be an obstetrician.

Lately, however, Diona has been considering optometry. About five years ago, she was diagnosed with glaucoma. Ever since, she's been going to the Illinois Eye Institute every three months or so for check-ups, and using these opportunities to size up optometry as a profession. Diona has also learned a bit about it from her optometrist at IEI, Dr. Eileen Gable, Associate Professor in Optometry. And she likes to query the fourth-year ICO students on rotation at the Eye Institute about why they chose the field. "They say it's like a family job," Diona says. "You have time with your family, more than you would being a physician."

These are important considerations for Diona, who says her own family has been a great source of inspiration to her. But she's not making any firm decisions yet. Diona has learned through participating in ROTC at school that she needs to focus her goals. Right now her priority is to attend Xavier University in New Orleans, which she says she's been researching extensively. Then she'll decide between optometry, medical, or some other professional school.

Whatever she chooses, Diona is certain about one thing: She wants to be in a profession where she has a great deal of contact with patients. "Ever since I was little, I've wanted to work with people," she says. ♦

—Dave Mulcahey

*Young patients are often inspired to become optometrists because of the practitioners they meet and the care they receive. As a practicing optometrist, you can promote your profession while you're on the job by encouraging promising patients to consider optometry as a career. For more information, visit [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org).*



# A Different Drummer

Steve Devick, OD '76,  
marches to his own music



After graduating from ICO in 1976, Steve Devick started a practice at Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove. He also began investing in real estate and eventually started a development company. Soon he was branching out into other businesses. He started a travel agency, which didn't do so well, and a recording studio, which did wonderfully. In 1987, he was a founding investor in Platinum Technology, a software company, and four years later he became chairman and CEO of Platinum Entertainment, a company that pioneered the online sale of music.

Somewhere along the line, Devick started feeling torn between optometry and his other business ventures. He liked his practice well enough — he even made a name for himself in the profession. But after awhile, it became difficult to maintain. By the early '90s, Devick was devoting one day a month to optometry, taking care of patients who wanted to see him.

"I decided to get out of the profession when I missed an important meeting because I had to see those patients who waited a long time to see me," Devick recalls. "I wasn't going to cancel those patients, but I just thought, I can't do this any more."

Thus ended the career of Steve Devick, OD, and began the ascent of Steve Devick, entrepreneur. Under Devick's leadership, Platinum Entertainment became the world's largest publicly traded independent recording label. Meanwhile, Platinum Technology, which he had helped to found, was acquired by Computer Associates for \$4 billion. At the turn of the millennium, Devick was riding high. Then a thing called Napster came along and ate Platinum Entertainment's lunch. "Clearly, the illegal file-sharing that happened through Napster and Kazaa and others dramatically changed our business," Devick says matter-of-factly. "We predicted downloading music would be popular, but we never thought it would be allowed to go on illegally for so long."

Devick talks about the demise of Platinum's download business pretty calmly for the guy who once owned the goose that laid the golden eggs. But he's happy the company made money for a few years, he says, adding that it's important to find the upside of such adversity: "My favorite business saying is, 'Abandonment is opportunity.' That means that leaving a business that's not working is a positive move. Most of the world thinks they should feel bad abandoning something. But it can be in the plus column, not the minus column."

Devick left Platinum in 2000 and has since started several new companies — and sold one of them. His most recent venture is Lionbeach, Inc. Devick describes what the company does as "content aggregation," and in some ways it seems to be an evolutionary step beyond Platinum. Lionbeach owns and produces music and video in the high-definition format, which it licenses to production companies making movies, commercials, and television programming.

Investing in intellectual property is not so different from investing in real estate, Devick says — or, for that matter, from starting a company. The urge to create and control residual value — to have a business that "makes money while you sleep," as he puts it — is what lured him out of optometry so many years ago. But, he is careful to point out, optometry is a wonderful field for somebody who wants to raise capital and invest or start businesses. "If you want to work hard, you can schedule your practice around whatever else you're doing," he says. "That's what I did."

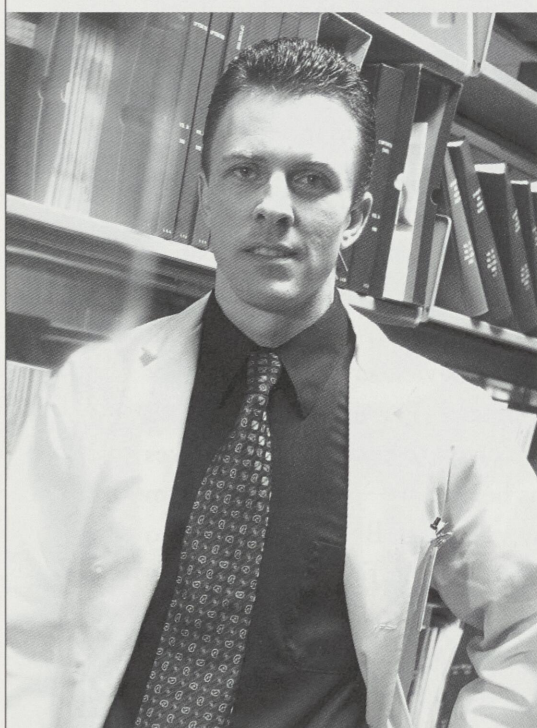
Steve Devick's made a fortune, and you get the idea he'll keep on growing it as long as he breathes. Still, ask him about his bid for immortality and he'll tell you it's the King-Devick Saccade Test, a routine eye movement test given to grade-schoolers across the country. "Back when I was practicing," Devick says, "when I was at optometric conventions or gatherings, people would ask me if my dad was Dr. Devick." No, in fact, *Steve* is Dr. Devick. He and Alan King, OD '76 invented the test when they were fourth-year students at ICO. (They flipped a coin to decide whether it would be King-Devick or Devick-King.) "I'm in Dorland's Medical Dictionary, in every doctor's office in the country, on page 1885," Devick says, seeming a little awed by the honor. "It's the most amazing professional thing in my life." ♦

—Dave Mulcahey



# Life After Graduation

A serious survey of alumni experience was a fun senior project for Richard Hunter, OD '04



Richard Hunter

When the time came for Richard Hunter to fulfill his 4th-year research requirement last year, he looked around at his classmates and saw them doing eye-related projects.

But, with the weight of the rigorous ICO curriculum almost behind him, Hunter says, "I wanted to do something different. Something really fun and interesting."

So Hunter, 33, asked himself what he personally wanted to know about. It didn't take him long to wonder: "What

happens to grads once they're out of optometry school?"

Hunter pitched the idea to Janice Jurkus, OD '74, Professor in Optometry and his contact lens teacher. Jurkus had previously sent Hunter back to the drawing table when she thought his first proposal, a contact lens project, had already been done.

But when Hunter suggested the post-grad study, he says, "She loved it." And so, their paper, "Educational Debt, Mode of Practice and Satisfaction with the Profession of Optometry," was born.

Hunter and Jurkus decided to look at ICO graduates in cohorts of three, five and 10 years after graduation. They wrote a survey of 23 questions. They enlisted the help of two other 4th-year students, Andrew Horvath and Michael Tran, to do special projects. Hunter served as lead author and coordinator of the project. Jurkus guided the process and helped explore ideas. It took the four of them six months, but by January, 2004, they had results.

"The exciting thing," Hunter says of the data, "is that there are jobs out there. People are finding work, getting paid pretty well and they're satisfied overall."

But Hunter says he was personally most fascinated by a shift toward private practice. "We saw people going into commercial practice right after

graduation. But the longer they were out of school, the more likely it was they were in private practice. Ten years out, we saw a 10-fold increase of people in private practice."

Hunter found that particularly fascinating because once he finishes school, he wants to go into private practice. A graduate of the 2004 class, he will continue in July with a one-year residency in pediatrics at the New England College of Optometry. After that, he hopes to head to California to establish a family practice with a pediatric component. "That's my dream," Hunter says.

As for the research, the team has submitted their report for publication in ASCO's journal, *Optometric Education*. And Hunter hopes other researchers will pick up where he left off. "We gathered so much data, you could do several research projects from it," he says. "Now I hope other ICO students will pick up the torch and run with it. I hope Dr. Jurkus follows up with other studies."

By the way, Hunter adds, "Dr. Jurkus was wonderful to work with. Very helpful and knowledgeable. I loved doing the project with her."

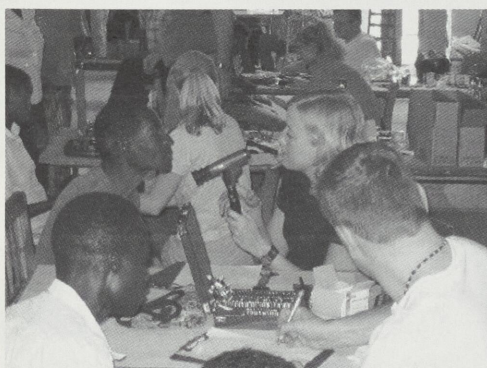
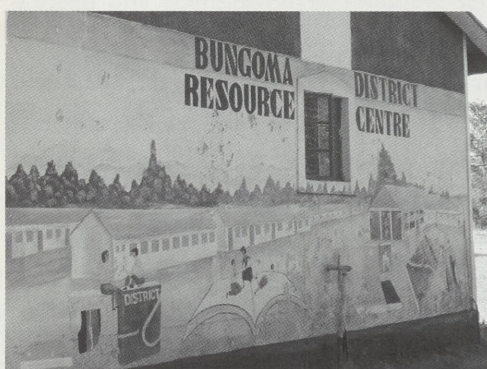
But in the end, did Hunter find the project fun? "It was really fun," he says. "Getting the surveys back was like Christmas — I'd run to my mailbox." ♦





## Winners

*4th-year Michael Lopykinski (second from left) was one of five students awarded a \$2,000 scholarship by the Heart of America Contact Lens Society. The awards were announced at a luncheon at the Heart of America 2004 congress.*



## Into Africa

*Five members of the ICO community joined 22 others in a service mission to Kenya over the holiday break last December. In the joint project of Volunteer Optometric Services for Humanity (VOSH) and IDEA ministries, participants provided eye care to more than 1,730 patients over four-and-a-half days in the Bungoma District of Western Kenya. Pictured from left to right are Harlan Vander Griend, OD '78, Ralph De Haan, OD '85, Andrea McCann, 4th-year student, Jarod Kastl, OD '03 and Kelly VanHaften, 4th-year student.*



# The Show Must Go On

ICO-based cable television show enters its seventh season

ICO Professor of Optometry, Janice Jurkus, OD '74, was walking down the street in Chicago one day. All-of-a-sudden, a cab driver starts honking and shouting at her. Jurkus stops in her tracks. He pulls over.

"I know you," the cabby says. "You're the eye lady."

Jurkus smiles. "Yes, I am," she says.

Jurkus is recognized on the street because she is the eye lady, or optometrist, on a public access television show called "Eye Have a Question." Broadcast on Chicago's Cable Access Network, CAN-TV, the program features Jurkus interviewing guests about eyecare issues, and then taking calls from viewers. The record number of calls in one 30-minute program is 15; the program usually fields about half that.

"People start calling as soon as the show gets going," Jurkus says, and that's good. "The gist of the show is to get call-in questions. That puts us directly in contact with the public."

Which is the point. Jurkus seeks contact with the public so she can deliver her real message: Take care of your eyes.

With a target audience of mothers, children and students, and potential viewers in more than 600,000 homes, Jurkus can broadly promote good eye care to important constituents in communities she may never reach otherwise.

She got the idea of producing a show after being a guest on a similar program. Jim McKechnie from the Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness needed an expert on contact lenses to appear on his show; he invited Jurkus.

She had such a good time as a guest, she thought of a show sponsored by the Illinois College of Optometry.

"I approached CAN," Jurkus recalls. "I said 'ICO has really smart people who can talk about eye care.' They were delighted to have us."

Jurkus teamed up with Al Pouch, Director of Media Services at ICO. The two of them were trained on the equipment at CAN-TV. They worked out a format, began calling their friends at the College to appear as guests, and a program was born.

Now in its seventh season, the show has expanded. In addition to colleagues at ICO, Jurkus invites a wide range of guests from outside the College to appear, and, beginning this season, ICO faculty members Drs. Renee Reeder and Eileen Gable, Associate Professors in Optometry, will be co-hosts.

Jurkus needed some help. She wrestled with whether to continue given the time commitment the show requires. In addition to scheduling the line-up of topics and guests, she spends time every week prepping with the guest and hosting the program.

But she decided the show will go on. When all is said and done, "It's fun to do," Jurkus says. "I like to be on TV, and getting recognized means people are watching. This is a good public service."

*"Eye Have a Question" is broadcast in the Chicago area each Thursday at 4:30 p.m. on Channel 21, [www.cantv.org](http://www.cantv.org). ♦*

## High Priority

Daisy Chan, OD, Associate Professor in Optometry, has received a 2004 People First Award from VSP (Vision Service Plan). Representing the North Central region, Chan is one of six winners recognized for exceptional service to her patients, community and the profession of optometry.

In naming Chan, VSP cited her role in the Chinatown Project, a program that provides non-English speaking patients with free transportation, translation, eye care and follow-up care services through the Illinois Eye Institute. In addition, Chan established a clinic in Chinatown to better serve the local community, where the majority of patients examined are poor immigrants without health or vision insurance.

Chan will donate \$1000 of her award money to ICO. ♦



# Out of this World



Trustee  
Lawrence J. DeLucas  
finds a place for  
optometry in space

It's no surprise Dr. Larry DeLucas uses a space metaphor to describe ICO: "It's like a shuttle taking off," he says.

DeLucas has an insider's right to use astronomical references; he's the only optometrist — or ophthalmologist for that matter — to ever fly on a space shuttle.

He's also a member of the ICO Board of Trustees, a position he has held for five years. DeLucas joined the Board after being invited to give the keynote address at Commencement in 1999. He often speaks at

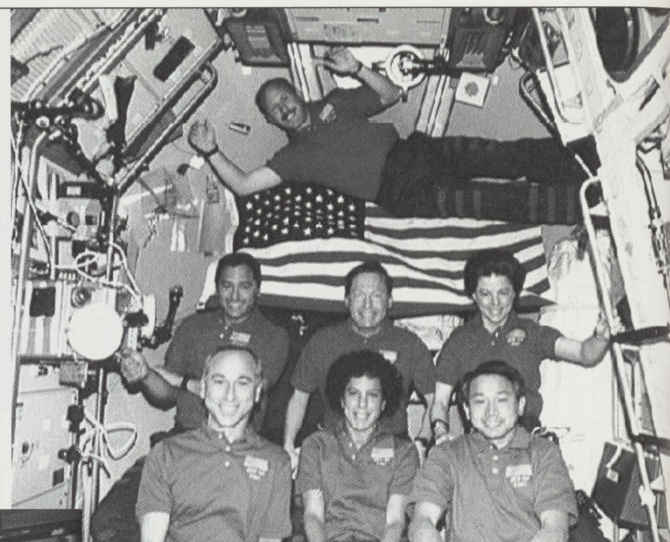


## Eye On Trustees



*Larry DeLucas (left) gets ready for liftoff*

*DeLucas at the "glovebox"*



*The crew on board the shuttle*

special engagements because of his experience as an astronaut. But at ICO, DeLucas also spoke as the research optometrist he is. He made such a positive impression, then-Board President John Brandt OD '67, invited him to become a Trustee.

DeLucas was intrigued. "I hadn't served on a board for a college," he says. "As I went through the process at ICO, I met everyone and it felt like a family. I enjoyed it. I felt I could contribute because of my research experience."

Research has always been DeLucas's first love. In graduate school, he pursued a PhD in biochemistry. His specialty was, and still is, crystallography, the study of protein molecule crystals, which reveal protein structure. His goal was, "a faculty position to support structural biology (the study of protein structures) research," DeLucas says. "We need structural biology research, but when I was a student, it required too much time to determine a protein structure. No one wanted to support it, and, as a result, it was difficult to find jobs." When DeLucas heard there was a need for people looking at the structure of molecules related to vision, he hedged his bet and entered optometry school.

"I didn't do optometry to help people," DeLucas admits. But he says one of the first things he learned when he went into practice was, "What really matters is helping people."

After earning both his PhD and his OD degrees, DeLucas accepted a position on the faculty in the School of Optometry at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In addition to establishing a research laboratory, he participated in the faculty private practice in optometry and taught in the school's vision screening and contact lens programs. He watched as representatives from NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, located 100 miles from UAB, approached the university about collaborating on space research projects.

Crystallography is perfect for space experimentation. Crystals grow more slowly without gravity. The slower a crystal grows, the better, as far as DeLucas is concerned. It takes a significant amount of time to determine the position of all of the atoms in a protein. Samples are limited. The protein structural information not only helps scientists understand how these proteins work biologically, but it also provides critical information that can guide the design of

new drugs to treat medical conditions, such as auto-immune disease, diabetes, cancer and even AIDS.

DeLucas's experiments began flying on the shuttle in 1985, and after that point, he was determined to wait for a chance to be selected as an astronaut if and when NASA had a mission involving medical and biotechnology experiments.

When that day finally came in 1990, DeLucas applied and was accepted for the mission. He had to temporarily leave his position at the school to train for two years to become a payload specialist astronaut. In 1992, DeLucas took flight with the Space Shuttle Columbia.

"NASA should fly a poet or writer in space to have someone who can describe the experience," DeLucas says, searching for words. "How do I describe the feeling I had, seeing all of the countries seemingly so close together with no borders between them? It makes you realize we are all in this together, even though in reality we are often unable to work together or even live together. NASA makes a mistake by only sending scientists into space; we can't adequately describe the emotional effect of the experience."

One effect of the experience for



DeLucas has been a new work life. Following his trip into space, he was invited by NASA to serve as chief scientist for the Space Station. When he finally made it back to UAB after four years, he was appointed Director of the Center for Biophysical Sciences and Engineering, one of 15 NASA research partnership centers around the country. Since 1994, DeLucas has been Director of the center, where he manages a 140-person, multidisciplinary team of biologists, chemists, physicists and engineers.

"I miss not helping people by performing eye exams," he says of his current research focus. "And I miss interaction with students. Actually, I do have interaction with graduate students because I teach one graduate-level course in protein structure. But that's different than the optometry students. I miss them. But I didn't think I could maintain the high level of quality that is required by both clinical optometry and basic research."

So DeLucas runs the biggest center for crystallography in the nation. His concentration is structure-based drug design and, he says, "The thing that's gotten me really excited recently is the word nanotechnology. Nano imprinting technology is an incredible technique

that enables you to fit 100 tubes within the thickness of one strand of human hair. This technology is so far ahead of its time we can't yet imagine all the applications."

Still, DeLucas's lab is working with two companies to use this technology to develop novel biosensors that will one day be used to monitor our environment or different protein and small molecule disease markers within the body. He says these will materialize but they will require concentrated research over a period of years.

Meanwhile, DeLucas and his team have developed a vision analysis system that automatically identifies crystals. He's also working on nano-crystallization and partnering with other companies to develop technology to sense proteins, prions and spores. With the encouragement of NASA, DeLucas launched a side-company to market new research. "It's easier," he says, "to have your own company than to convince big companies to fund research if they don't see any immediate commercial interest."

"The sad thing about drug design," DeLucas continues, "is that it takes so long (eight to 20 years), and costs so much (about \$600 million) to see some-

thing through clinical trials. And then, for every 10 drugs that enter clinical trials, only one survives and eventually is approved by the FDA for human use."

But that won't prevent DeLucas from trying. "Even with the failures, you learn something," he says.

And that's what it's all about. When DeLucas talks to students, he tells them to go for it. "Going to space has allowed me to encourage optometry students to be adventurous and bold," he says. "To do something different. Look for ways to expand the profession. Look for ways to expand personally through research and teaching."

And serving on boards of trustees. Now, instead of being invited to deliver the keynote address at Commencement, DeLucas will introduce the speaker at the November Alumni Reunion this year. Captain Jim Lovell, Commander of the 1970 Apollo 13 space mission, is featured, and DeLucas is excited. "I've never met him," he says.

DeLucas is also excited about the Illinois College of Optometry. "ICO is headed in a direction that will put it in a new category of optometry schools," he says. "It's going to be very difficult for the others to compete." ♦



DeLucas in KC135

DeLucas and fellow astronaut working



A food tray aboard the shuttle



DeLucas in water survival training





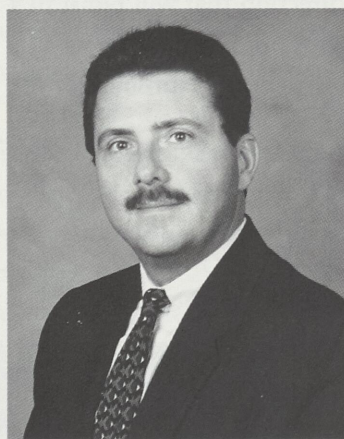
## ICO Ambassadors

ICO's Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Thomas Lawless, OD '71, and Trustee Donovan Crouch, OD '63, participated in an international conference on globalization and the international mobility of optometrists. Convening in Dallas, Texas, delegates to the conference reviewed clinical competency equivalencies for optometrists who seek licensure in other countries.

Dr. Crouch is a Board Member of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO). Dr. Lawless is International Liaison for ARBO and a standing member of the Legislation and Regulation Committee of the World Council of Optometry (WCO).

Thirty-one delegates representing 10 countries attended the conference. It was co-sponsored by ARBO and WCO and supported by a grant from Alcon Laboratories. ♦

## Congratulations



Trustee Michael Favia has received the John Marshall Law School Distinguished Service Award for his extensive leadership and legal ability. ♦

## Class Notes

1948

**Jerome Agrest** works in a three-partner practice in Glenview, Ill. He recently returned to ICO to do advanced training in pharmacology. In addition to his practice, Dr. Agrest is a member of the Rotary Club and on the board of the men's club at Congregation Beth Shalom. He has received the President's Award from the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs. Dr. Agrest and his wife, Estelle, live in Northbrook, Ill. They have two children and four grandchildren.

**Albert Eschen** recently published the book "Collectible Mice," which is based on his and his wife Florence's extensive art collection featuring mice.

**Al Rosenbloom** was cited by Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley for his work with Volunteer Optometrists Serving Humanity (VOSH). The citation was part of a special event, "Chicago: Rhythm and Rhymes," hosted by the Chicago-Casablanca Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program in November, 2003.

1963

**Phil Ortiz** won the Humanitarian Award from Eyecare International.

1966

**Howard B. Dubin** is pleased to announce his retirement after 37 "wonderful and successful years." He plans to spend his time with his family, jogging and concentrating on his investments. "I am grateful to ICO for providing me with the skills to enjoy a wonderful career."

1974

**Howard Rosner** was recognized by CIBA Vision for his commitment to quality and innovation in the care he provides contact lens patients.

1976

**Cpt. Thomas W. Byers** was called to active duty with the U.S. Army in March, 2003, and served five months at Ft. Riley, Kan., performing exams on deploying soldiers. He is a member of the Missouri Army National Guard 735th MSB Springfield, Mo.

1980

**Peter M. Agnone** was elected 2004 President of the Michigan Optometric Association. The association had also named him Michigan Optometrist of the Year in 2000. Dr. Agnone works in a group practice in Grand Blanc, Mich. He and his wife, Sally, have two children.

**James E. Bureman** is managing partner and member of the Missouri Eye Institute LLC in Springfield, Mo.

**Donald J. Seiler** has made four trips to Vietnam, two trips to Thailand and one trip to Costa Rica volunteering with VOSH of the Lions Club.



## 1985

**Scott Tomasino** has been elected to the Heart of America Contact Lens Society Board of Directors. He will serve as Accreditations Director. Dr. Tomasino also served as President of the St. Louis Optometric Society from 1994-1995. He lives in St. Charles, Mo. and practices in O'Fallon, Mo. He is married to Beth and has two children.



**Michael Zost** is on the faculty of ICO and has a private practice in Glenview, Ill. He specializes in neuro-optometric rehabilitation and pediatrics. In addition to his practice, he serves as Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired.

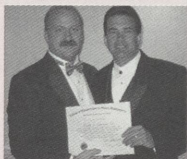
## 1986

**Michael J. Wojciak** was recognized by CIBA Vision for his commitment to quality and innovation in the care he provides contact lens patients.

## 1988

**Chidi Ekenna-Kalu** recently completed a PhD from the University of Alabama-Birmingham. She is in the Navy and working in Florida doing naval science research.

**Brad Habermehl** received a fellowship in vision therapy from COVD. He is in a group practice with Leon Ingham, '00, and Thomas Pardee, specializing in vision therapy.



## 1992

**Eric Miedema** is living in Modesto, Calif., with his wife and three children (two boys and one girl). He writes, "I credit much of my success to my education at ICO. I live in the only state with two optometry schools and yet I had no trouble competing. My partner was a professor at UC Berkeley and was very impressed with my training when I first joined the practice."

## 1993

**Mitchell R. Petit** completed the Ironman Triathlon World Championship in Kialua-Kona, Hawaii, last fall. After competing with more than 50,000 triathletes for one of 1,500 slots, Dr. Petit finished the 2.6-mile ocean swim, 112-mile bike, and 26.2-mile run in the allotted 17 hours. He says it was "the toughest race of my life." Dr. Petit practices in St. Petersburg, Fla.



## 1996

**Nicholas Colatrella** was named "Young Optometrist of the Year" by the Ohio Optometric Association. Dr. Colatrella is clinical director of Northeast Ohio Eye Surgeons, an ophthalmology/optometry practice specializing in anterior seg-



ment. He lives with his wife, Stacy Hinkemeyer, OD '96, and their 1-year-old daughter, Alice.

## 1997

**William Opferman** was recognized by CIBA Vision for his commitment to quality and innovation in the care he provides contact lens patients.

**Jill Tomlin** married Bill Hays on Oct. 14, 2000.

## 1999

**Lori S. Johnston** had a son, Peyton Louis Johnston, on Nov. 22, 2001. She is self-employed.

**Todd M. Zarwell** has spent the last year creating an optometry-related website, [www.eyedock.com](http://www.eyedock.com). He is also working on other eyecare-related computer products. After graduating from ICO, Dr. Zarwell did a residency in Refractive Surgery and Anterior Segment Disease at Davis Duehr Dean in Madison, Wis., where he now works.

## 2000

**Alissa Jackson** married Matthew D. Mrozinski on Dec. 7, 2002. They live in Fishers, Ind. with their son, Jackson Mrozinski.

**Carrie Lahnstein** married Lance Campbell in March 2003. They are living in Houston, Texas. Carrie works at Texas Children's Hospital-Health Center in the Woodlands.

## 2002

**Kirsten E. Albrecht** is in solo private practice.

**Megan Hunter** wrote "Two is Better Than One - Combigan broadens the scope of combination glaucoma medications" in the August edition of *Optometric Management*.

## 2003

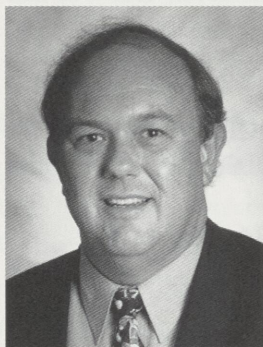
**Kristy Genurio** received a 2003 Vistakon Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care from the American Optometric Foundation.

**Alison Hood** married Douglas Kirar, '03, on Oct. 18, 2003. The couple lives in Stockton Lake, Mo. Dr. Hood-Kirar works at Wal-Mart Vision Center in Nevada, Mo. Her husband practices at a Wal-Mart Vision Center in Bolivar, Mo.

**F. Todd Perzy** built his new office himself and opened "cold" in Cleveland, Ohio. "Don't let anyone say it can't be done," he says. "It is a lot of work, but so is anything that is worthwhile."



# Trustee Albert H. Rodriguez, Jr., OD '74, DOS 1950-2004



The Illinois College of Optometry community mourns the loss of Albert H. "Buddy" Rodriguez, Jr., OD '74, a member of the ICO Board of Trustees. Dr. Rodriguez died unexpectedly of a heart attack in Clearwater, Fla., on Friday, March 19, 2004. He was 53.

Life as an optometrist was relatively predetermined for Dr. Rodriguez. He was the son of Albert Rodriguez, Sr., NICO '49, a leader in optometry at the local, state and national levels. Just 14 when his father died, Buddy was the recipient of a scholarship to attend the Illinois College of Optometry. The man behind that gift, a classmate of Buddy's father, C.K. Hill, NICO '49, also led a drive to establish the Albert Rodriguez Memorial Auditorium at ICO.

After graduating from the College in 1974, Dr. Rodriguez opened an optometric practice in Tampa, Fla. He owned five optometry offices when he left private practice in 1989 to devote all of his time to other professional healthcare concerns.

In 1992, Dr. Rodriguez accepted an invitation to serve on the

ICO Board of Trustees. He was elected Chairman of the Board in 1998 and served in that position until October, 2001. In October, he would have served a full 12-year term. The College honored him with the Doctor of Science in Optometry degree in June, 2003.

"The loss of Buddy Rodriguez comes as a devastating shock to the trustees at ICO," said Thomas Lawless, OD '71, current ICO Board Chairman. "He loved ICO. His enthusiasm, energy and dedication to the College were unlimited. His kind spirit, gentle nature and expertise are irreplaceable."

At a memorial service in Clearwater, many friends and colleagues joined his family to remember Dr. Rodriguez. Typical of the sentiment were the words of ICO President Dr. Arol Augsburg. "He was a kind, decent and honorable man who made significant contributions to ICO and the profession of optometry," he said. "His selfless devotion to the College, wonderful sense of humor and friendship will be greatly missed by all."

Dr. Rodriguez is survived by his wife of 29 years, Donna, a son, Christopher and a daughter, Jennifer. The family has established The Albert H. Rodriguez, Jr. Memorial Endowment Fund for ICO students who transition to private practice after graduation.

## Memories of Dr. Rodriguez

[My relationship with Buddy was] "brotherly, with equal trust and respect. In my years at ICO, Dr. Rodriguez never refused an assignment and always resolved issues assigned to a committee chaired by him. Truly, ICO, optometry and society have lost one of their brightest stars. He was a man of wisdom, honor and integrity amidst that caring and vibrant nature."

—Dr. Joseph Henry, former Dean of Harvard School of Dental Medicine and ICO Trustee Emeritus

"Buddy and I served together on the ICO Management Team in 1996. I soon learned that he had a passion for the College, its future, programs, personnel and students. He also possessed an ability to manage financial matters, an arena where his dedication to accountability showed clearly. When a project he was committed to began, everyone soon knew it was time to get the job done or move out of the way. I will miss his love for life, spirit of enthusiasm and dedication to friends and colleagues."

—ICO Trustee Emeritus John Brandt, OD '67

"Buddy was a gentleman in every definition of the word. He was modest and unassuming and placed the concerns of others above his own. With no thought of personal gain, he willingly offered his time and talents to his chosen profession and to the Illinois College of Optometry."

—ICO trustee, James Butler, OD '59

"Buddy was a gentle, fun-loving and easy going man. He loved his time as a student at ICO and I believe he relived those days when he engaged ICO students with his friendly banter and smile."

Dean of Academic Affairs, Janice Scharre, OD '76

"I think I've known Buddy since he was conceived. My wife and I were friends of his parents. One year, we were at a Christmas housewarming party at their house. Nine months later, Buddy was born. We go way back."

It's hard for me to talk about someone I loved so much. His dad and I were close. Buddy was like a son to me.

But one story seems to sum him up best. On Buddy's first day of school as a child, he was sent home for being insolent. His teacher didn't like his attitude.

As it turned out, on that first day of school, the teacher asked all the kids where they were from. Now this was Florida; people move there from all over the world. When the teacher asked Buddy where he came from, he said, "A coconut tree." She asked him to please be serious. Buddy insisted he was.

Turns out family lore had it that the boy had come from the coconut tree in their yard. That's because my wife and I had given the Rodriguezes a tree at that housewarming party the year Buddy was born. That's why his parents told Buddy he was born under a coconut tree.

Throughout his life, Buddy was as earnest as that little boy. That was his personality — honest, above board. I respected him very much."

—C.K. Hill, NICO '49, surrogate father to Dr. Rodriguez

Please send us your own memories of Dr. Albert "Buddy" Rodriguez.

Write us via regular mail or email, and we will print your contribution in the Fall 2004 issue of ICO Matters. Thank you.

Address correspondence to:

Vincent Brandys, OD '90, Director of Alumni Relations

Illinois College of Optometry, 3241 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60616

Email: VBrandys@eyecare.ico.edu



# Obituaries

**Donald W. Balfour, NICO '49** died in Sebring, Fla. on March 10, 2004. He was 80.

Dr. Balfour practiced optometry in Janesville, Wis. for 47 years. He is survived by his wife, Madge, and children David Balfour, OD '80, of Bushnell, Ill., Debra Fladmark of Janesville and Donald Balfour of Lansing, Mich.

**George Beilfuss, NICO '32**, died in December, 2003. He was 92.

At age 20, Dr. Beilfuss was valedictorian of his class at Northern Illinois College of Optometry. He went on to practice on Chicago's South Side for 56 years. Dr. Beilfuss is survived by a daughter, a son, eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

**Alan Frenkel, OD '77**, died in September, 2003, from complications of a melanoma. He lived in Farmington Hills, Mich.

**Diane Hamman Galina** died in Cupertino, Calif. in March, 2004, after a brief battle with cancer. She was 72.

Mrs. Galina was the wife of Seymour Galina, NICO '48, former chairman of the ICO Board of Trustees. A lover of dogs and travel, she was a member of the Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH) trip to Mexico led by Al Rosenbloom, NICO '48, last year (*ICO Matters*, Winter 2004).

Mrs. Galina's other interests included education, the Federated Women's Club of Los Altos and the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce.

**John R. Hanson, OD '57**, died in October, 2003. He was 73.

Dr. Hanson practiced optometry for 40 years in the Ely, Minn.-area. He retired in 1998. A member of the Minnesota Air National Guard, Dr. Hansen reached the rank of lieutenant

colonel by the time he left the service in 1990. He is survived by his wife, Arlene, a daughter, two sons and four grandchildren.

**E.C. Miller, NICO '48**, died in September, 2003.

In addition to practicing optometry, Dr. Miller gave private pilot lessons and owned a motel for 10 years. He was a P-38 pilot in the Army Air Corps in the South Pacific in World War II. Dr. Miller is survived by his wife, Ruth, three children and seven grandchildren.

**Ethel Miller, NICO '36**, passed away on Feb. 3, 2004. She was 87.

Dr. Miller was one of three female students in her class at Northern Illinois College of Optometry. After originally attending Pennsylvania College of Optometry, she transferred in 1933 because she felt the climate at PCO was not friendly toward females.

A student leader, Dr. Miller started a female sorority and played an instrumental role in changing administration policy on women's issues. She graduated from NICO when she was 19, but had to wait until she was 21 before she could get her license to practice.

Dr. Miller married her husband, a graduate of PCO, in the early 1940s. He died in 1978 from cancer. The couple had two sons, both MDs.

Dr. Miller is survived by a son; she lost her other son just three months after the death of her husband.

Originally from Philadelphia, Dr. Miller lived in Phoenix.

**Joseph Rosin, NICO '26**, died in November, 2003. He was 99.

The co-founder of Rosin Eye Care, Dr. Rosin was a pioneer in quick-service optometry. He made his name as a doctor who could provide glasses in two hours.

Dr. Rosin and his brother, Morris,

opened their first office in 1930 in Cicero, Ill. One of their patients was Al Capone.

Over the years, eye care was embraced by other members of the Rosin family, including Joseph's son Sorrel, and his grandson, Joseph, a physician who performs laser vision correction.

In addition to Al Capone, Dr. Rosin had many famous patients, including Pope Paul VI, singer Elton John, sportscaster Harry Carey, tenor Placido Domingo, musical comedy star, Donald O'Connor, and baseball players Joe DiMaggio and Billy Williams.

Dr. Rosin is survived by his grandson, Joseph, granddaughter, Jennifer, and eight great-grandchildren.

**Thomas R. Sekey, CCO '50**, died in April, 2004. He was 80.

Dr. Sekey practiced optometry in Wisconsin for more than 30 years. He served as president of the Wisconsin State Optometric Society in 1982, and was director of the Milwaukee County Optometric Society. He retired to Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

**Frank L. Yonan, NICO '48**, died in March, 2004. He was 88.

Dr. Yonan practiced optometry in Chicago and Park Ridge, Ill. until his retirement in the mid-1990s.

Before becoming an optometrist, he was drafted into the Army in 1941. As part of his service, Dr. Yonan survived the Bataan Death March, trekking 60 miles as a prisoner of war in the Philippines. While a prisoner, he went from 175 pounds to 87, living in part because he worked as a cook's assistant and could get food scraps. All told, Dr. Yonan spent 40 months in a Japanese labor camp.

Dr. Yonan is survived by two brothers and a sister.



## Giving

### Meet the Challenge



Dick Edwards, NICO '39, and his wife have established a \$118,000 charitable gift annuity (CGA), the largest CGA in ICO's history. In addition to their gift, the Edwards challenged other members of the ICO community to support the College.

"I will match any new gift annuity of \$25,000 or more with a gift of \$5,000," Dr. Edwards said. "I will do this seven times for a total of \$35,000. Together, our gifts will support the bright young students who represent the future of optometry."

C. Clayton Powell, CCO '52, and his wife have created the Dr. C. Clayton Powell Scholarship Endowment for African-American Students enrolled at the Illinois College of Optometry. The couple has made a commitment of \$25,000.

CIBA Vision continues its support for the Contact Lens Residency it established five years ago with a new pledge of \$15,000.

"We have a unique and attractive Contact Lens Residency, made possible through CIBA Vision's generosity," said Janice Jurkus, OD '74, Professor of Optometry and Cornea and Contact Lens Residency Coordinator. "The strength of it lies in placing a resident with students from ICO and other institutions in a private practice-type setting at CIBA Vision's clinic. We are very grateful."

The Center for Keratoconus has made an unconditional grant of \$3,000 to support keratoconus research and training at ICO. The Center's award will advance two current studies at ICO under the direction of Dr. Renee Reeder, Associate Professor of Optometry and Chief of the Cornea Center for Clinical Excellence.

Essilor Lenses has awarded half of the 2003 Essilor Technology Grant to ICO to help renovate the Ophthalmic Optics Laboratory. "Essilor's grant will help the College create a modernized, professional setting to comprehensively train students for optometric practice," said Neil Hodur, OD '75, Professor of Optometry.

Tony Chan, OD '59, T. Roy Chan, OD '61, and Mamie Chan, OD '00, have made a gift commitment of \$20,000 to sponsor the Chan Family Examination Room in the Illinois Eye Institute.

R.M. Kendrick, NICO '54 and his wife have established a \$24,600 charitable gift annuity.

Dennis and Laura Gierhart have made a \$10,000 gift to support the photophobia research of Neil Hodur, OD '75, Professor of Optometry, and Rebecca Zoltolski, PhD, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences.

Mrs. Marian Newell, wife of the late Dr. Frank Newell, former chairman of the department of ophthalmology and visual science at the University of Chicago, has donated 34 ophthalmic volumes to the ICO library. Included in this gift are volumes by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder.

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Barr  
Rich  
Pete





# Leadership Circle

*Reflects giving from Feb. 1, 2003 to April 15, 2004.*

Mr. Steven H. Abbey and  
Ms. Pamela Brick  
Dwight H. Akerman, O.D.  
Robert L. Albertson, O.D.  
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Amari  
John F. Amos, O.D.  
Arol Augsburg, O.D.  
Irwin Azman, O.D.  
John L. Baker, O.D.  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard B. Bernick  
Jeff J. Blanco, O.D.  
Norman E. Blase, O.D.  
Robert J. Blumthal, O.D.  
Dr. and Mrs. Neil Boderman  
Vincent W. Brandys, O.D.  
Donald J. Bush, O.D.  
James R. Butler, O.D.  
Brian W. Caden, O.D., M.A.  
Mamie C. Chan, O.D.  
Dr. T. Roy Chan  
Tony Q. Chan, O.D.  
Mark K. Colip, O.D.  
Valarie Conrad, O.D., M.P.H.  
and Alan Weiler, O.D.  
Craig Crouch, O.D.  
Donovan L. Crouch, O.D.  
Kevin Crouch, O.D.  
Karl S. Csiszer, O.D.  
Mr. Anthony D'Andrea  
Fred R. DeHaan, O.D.  
Lawrence J. DeLucas, O.D., Ph.D.,  
D.S.C. (hon.)  
Dick Edwards, O.D.  
Ms. Mary Enright  
Robert L. Fait, O.D.  
Michael V. Favia, J.D.  
Kelly A. Frantz, O.D.  
Richard P. Franz, O.D.  
Edward L. Furtak, O.D.  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis L. Gierhart  
Gary G. Gray, Jr., O.D.  
Robert L. Grazian, O.D.  
Gary Gunderson, O.D.  
Charles W. Harrill, O.D.  
John D. Janney, O.D.  
Barry J. Jose, O.D.  
Richard S. Kattoun, O.D., D.O.S.  
Peter Kehoe, O.D.

R. M. Kendrick, O.D.  
Mr. and Mrs. James Knight  
Millicent L. Knight, O.D.  
Gary W. Lasken, O.D.  
Thomas A. Lawless, O.D.  
William E. Leadingham, O.D.  
Steve A. Leon, O.D.  
Gary A. Leshner, Ph.D.  
Steven A. Levin, O.D.  
Pamela A. Lowe, O.D.  
Dominick M. Maino, O.D., M.Ed.  
Dr. Alan A. Mandel and  
Mrs. Rae F. Mandel  
Seymour Marco Family Foundation  
Leonard V. Messner, O.D.  
Floyd D. Mizener, O.D., D.O.S.,  
Ph.D.  
Charles F. Mullen, O.D.  
Jeffrey A. Myers, O.D.  
Bernard Nevel, O.D.  
Mr. Zeki Nur  
Phillip A. Ortiz, O.D.  
Mr. David C. Palansky  
Bill M. Park, O.D.  
Stanley C. Pearle, O.D.  
Ms. Mary Lynn Petrica  
R. Elliot Politser, O.D.  
C. Clayton Powell, O.D., M.P.H.,  
D.O.S.  
Martin P. Reichenbecher, O.D.  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael H. Roder  
Albert H. Rodriguez, Jr., O.D.,  
D.O.S.\*  
Ron W. Roelfs, O.D.  
Leon E. Rondene, O.D.  
Ms. Laura L. Rounce  
Richard Rucoba, O.D.  
Janice E. Scharre, O.D., M.A.  
Darrell G. Schlange, O.D., D.O.S.  
Dennis W. Siemsen, O.D., MHPE  
Dr. and Mrs. Martin J. Sikorski  
Stephen Steinmetz, O.D.  
Bruce A. Teitelbaum, O.D.  
Spencer P. Vidulich, O.D.  
R. Tracy Williams, O.D.  
Howard I. Woolf, O.D.  
Ms. Laurie Wynn, CIMA  
\* Deceased

## ICO Alumni Association Awards

### 2004-2005 Nomination Ballot

Your assistance in recognizing deserving peers and fellow professionals for this award is requested. Please submit your recommendations, along with a brief background sketch of the candidate's accomplishments, for the following award prior to September 1, 2004.

*You are nominating for which award? (pick one)*

- ☐ Alumna/Alumnus of the Year Award  
☐ Distinguished Alumnus/ae Award  
☐ Distinguished Friend Award  
☐ Excellence in Education Award  
☐ Humanitarian Award  
☐ Lifetime Service Award  
☐ Professional Achievement Award

NAME OF NOMINEE

NOMINEE'S PHONE NUMBER

NOMINEE'S ADDRESS

*Why are you nominating this person for the award?*

YOUR NAME

YOUR PHONE NUMBER

YOUR ADDRESS

**Please MAIL or FAX your form by September 1, 2004:**

Dr. Vince Brandys '90, Director, Alumni Relations  
Illinois College of Optometry  
3241 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60616  
FAX: (312) 949-7673

If you have any questions, please call (312) 949-7079





Illinois College of Optometry  
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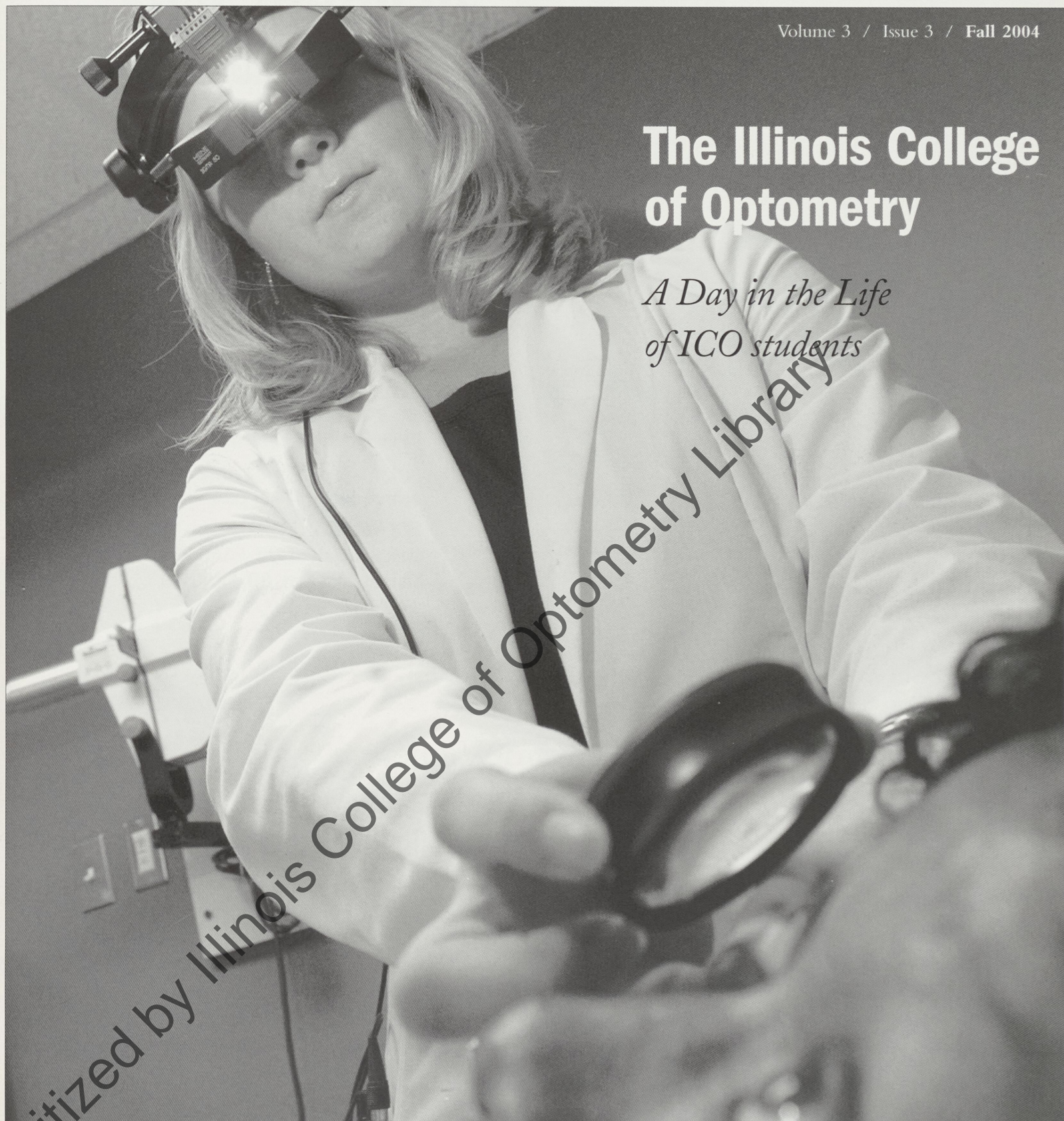
# ICO *Matters*

Magazine of the Illinois College of Optometry  
and the Illinois Eye Institute

Volume 3 / Issue 3 / Fall 2004

## The Illinois College of Optometry

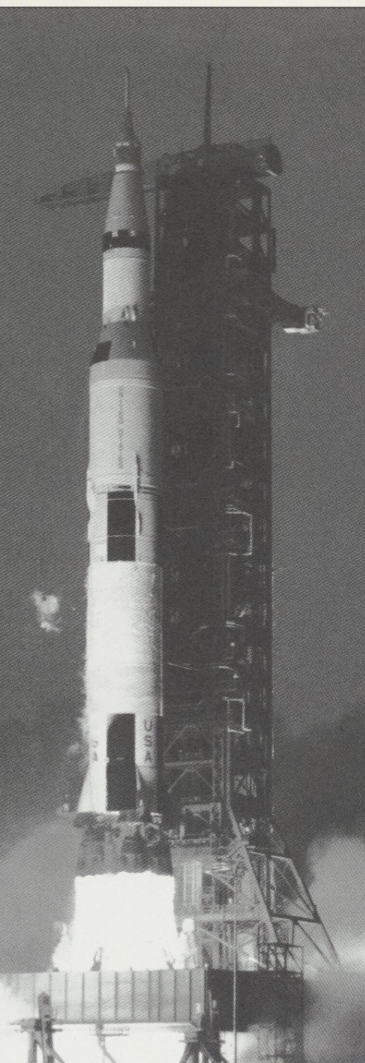
*A Day in the Life  
of ICO students*



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ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY  
**REUNION 2004**  
NOVEMBER 12-14

Featuring  
**JIM LOVELL / NOV. 13**  
at the Alumni Awards Presentation



Introduced by  
Lawrence J. DeLucas, O.D., Ph.D., D.Sc. (Hon)  
ICO Board of Trustees

NOV 12 ANNIVERSARY CLASS RECEPTIONS  
CELEBRATING THE CLASSES OF:  
'54, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94  
OPEN TO ALL ALUMNI

NOV 14 CONTINUING EDUCATION  
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FEATURING:  
Louise Sclafani, OD, FAAO '89  
Timothy Wingert, OD, FAAO '79



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## And The Winners Are...

ICO's distinguished Alumni Award Winners

### Alumnus of the Year

Ward R. Ransdell, OD '74

### Alumna of the Year

Lori L. Grover, OD '90

### Lifetime Achievement Award

Albert H. Rodriguez, Jr., OD '74  
(Posthumously)

### Humanitarian Award

Alfred A. Rosenbloom, Jr., OD '48

### Professional Achievement Award

Pui L. Tsang, OD '54, MD

### Distinguished Alumnus Award

Thaddeus S. Depukat, OD '60

### Excellence in Education

Louise A. Sclafani, OD '89  
Brian W. Caden, OD '72

### Distinguished Friend

Charles F. Mullen, OD

### Congratulations

to **Vince Brandys, OD '90**,  
who will leave his position  
as Director of Alumni Relations  
at ICO to become the Director  
for Professional Relations at  
the Illinois Eye Institute.



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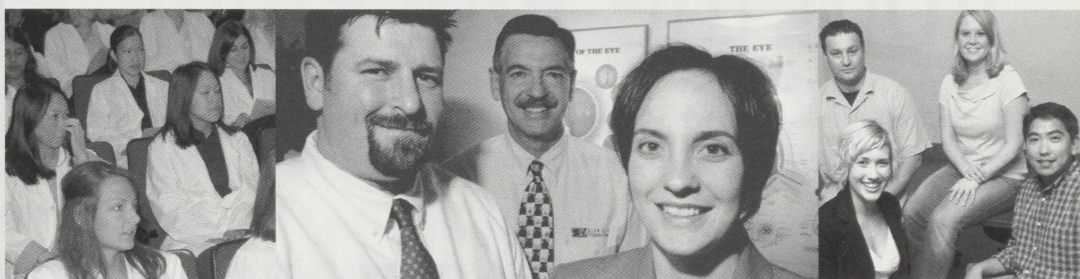
Al Pouch, Lloyd DeGrane, Victoria Cichy  
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Front cover: Photo by Lloyd DeGrane

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# A Message from the President



*The following remarks were made on August 30, 2004, by Dr. Augsburger at the President's Welcome, Awards and Clinical Coating Ceremony for first-year students.*

As I think about the symbolism of bestowing clinical coats to first-year students at the Illinois College of Optometry, I am reminded that optometrists in our society fill two separate roles: that of the healer and that of the professional.

The roots of the healer go back before recorded history to the shamans and medicine men and women, or someone who ministered to members of society who were ill. In Western civilization, we trace these traditions to Hellenic Greece and Hippocrates. It is only in the last 200 years that science and technology provided the means for the healer to actually cure rather than just minister.

During these last 200 years, several of society's knowledge-based services such as law, medicine, engineering, and optometry became so complex they required organization. This was largely accomplished through licensing laws, which granted a monopoly to the respective profession.

In American culture, this monopoly is accompanied by the privilege of self-regulation. Thus a contract is established between a profession and society. The profession is granted a monopoly over the use of a body of knowledge, along with a considerable degree of autonomy, prestige, and financial rewards. These benefits are granted with the understanding that the profession will conduct affairs with morality and integrity, provide safeguards of competence for its members, and be devoted to altruistic service.

The Clinical Coating Ceremony and Optometric Oath symbolize the special trust our society invests in optometrists because of their status as professionals.

As we celebrate a new class of students at ICO, it is valuable for us all to remember the social contract we agree to as optometrists.

Welcome to the profession and congratulations. ♦





# Letters

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Dear Editor,

I have been thrilled to see VOSH featured in the past couple of issues of *ICO Matters*! I participated in my first of six VOSH missions as a fourth-year student, and I was the only one that year to do so. VOSH seemed as good as dead. Students and faculty alike did not seem to care about the program at all.

It is certainly refreshing to see members of the ICO community who are not worrying only about what they are going to receive from ICO, but are instead looking beyond themselves and giving to those in need. Using your talents and education unselfishly will help you all grow personally and professionally.

Congratulations to all you ICO VOSHers!

Sincerely,

Alyce (Herroon) Hofmann, OD '98  
South Elgin, IL

VisionCite [ICO's citation index] is awesome! (See *ICO Matters*, Fall 2003, [www.visioncite.com](http://www.visioncite.com)) It has been so helpful. I can't even count how many times it has located information that we couldn't find elsewhere!

Ellen Dickman, MA  
Librarian  
International Library, Archives & Museum  
of Optometry  
American Optometric Association  
St. Louis, MO

Many thanks to all of you who sponsored  
Private Practice Clerks over the summer of 2004!

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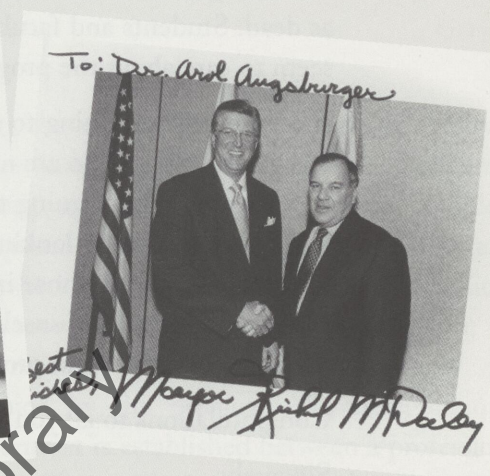
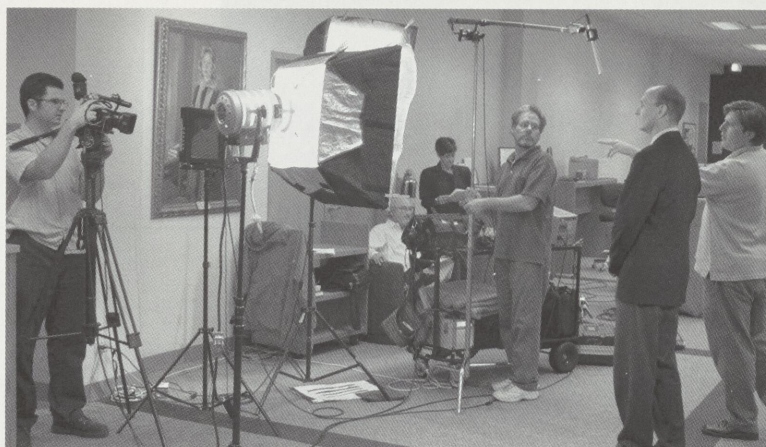
Mary Lou French, OD '77, Orland Park, IL  
Steve Butzon, OD '86, Villa Park, IL  
Robert Steinmetz, OD '02, Oak Lawn, IL

Haniel Roby, OD '89, Chicago, IL  
Millicent Knight, OD '87, Evanston, IL  
Pamela Lowe, OD '88, Chicago, IL



## Eye On Campus

A film crew joined ODs in seeing patients at the Illinois Eye Institute last July. The occasion was part of a project facilitated by Sandra Block, OD '81, and sponsored by Special Olympics and Lions Clubs International to develop a program to teach optometry students and ophthalmology residents how to evaluate the vision of a person with an intellectual disability. The project is funded by the Lions Foundation and will be distributed worldwide. In addition to IEL, exams were taped at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.



Daley Double: Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley has been seeing a lot of ICO lately. He met with President Augsburger in January, and in August he presented ICO's Dr. David Lee with a certificate of appreciation for his work volunteering in the city's CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) program.

## The Results Are In

Emerging from the strongest applicant pool ever at ICO, women enroll in ground-breaking numbers. See the statistics for yourself:

### Admissions Statistics

Applicants	785
Interviewed	437
Enrolled	155

### Demographic Composition

Female	72%
Male	28%

### Minority Enrollment

Black/African-American	5%
Asian	28%
Hispanic	1%
Native American	1%

Total Minority Enrollment	35%
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The Gregg Steele ICO Players presented Fred Carmichael's "I Bet Your Life" on Friday, August 27, 2004. The event benefits the Gregg Steele Memorial Scholarship/Faculty Scholarship Fund.





# Snapshot

## A Day in the Life of ICO Students

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In honor of the new 2004/2005 school year and the 593 students who've embarked on another sequence of classes and clinics, *ICO Matters* delved into the lives of four members of the Illinois College of Optometry community. Photographer Lloyd DeGrane followed first-year Louis

Jison, second-year Amanda Mataya, third-year Lexie Franzen and fourth-year Gene Grinman as they went about their days as students of optometry. While the requirements and patterns of the individuals varied, one thing seemed consistent among them: enthusiasm for the profession they're

pursuing and the institution they've chosen to prepare them for it.

Take a look at the lives of ICO students in 2004 as depicted in our pages, then sit in on our conversation about their education and experience at the Illinois College of Optometry.



# Louis Jison

**Year**

First

**Area of interest in optometry**

Low Vision or Ocular Disease

**Preferred practice setting**

Private or Group Practice as well as  
Academic (Research/Teaching)

**Undergraduate school and degree**

BS, Cell/Molecular Biology with minor  
in Pharmacology, 1993

Tulane University

MD, 2001

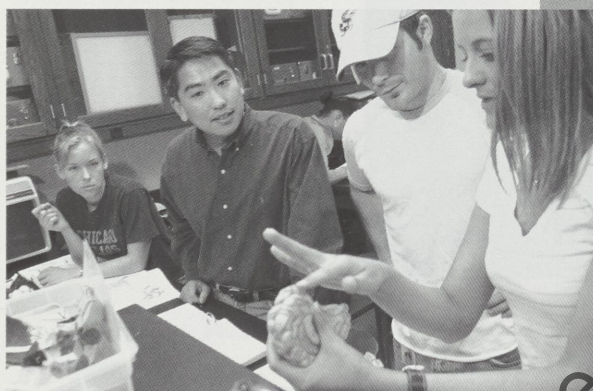
St. Luke's College of Medicine

**Hometown city and state**

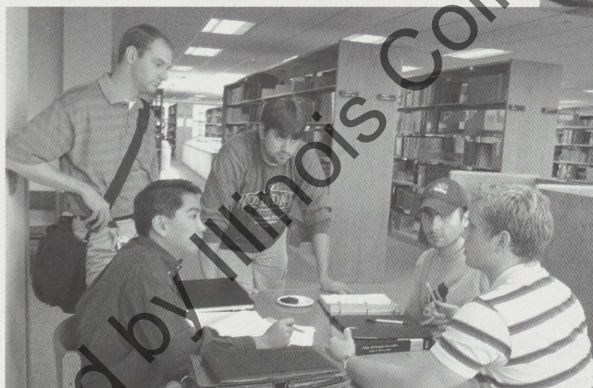
Los Angeles, CA/Vancouver, BC

**Age**

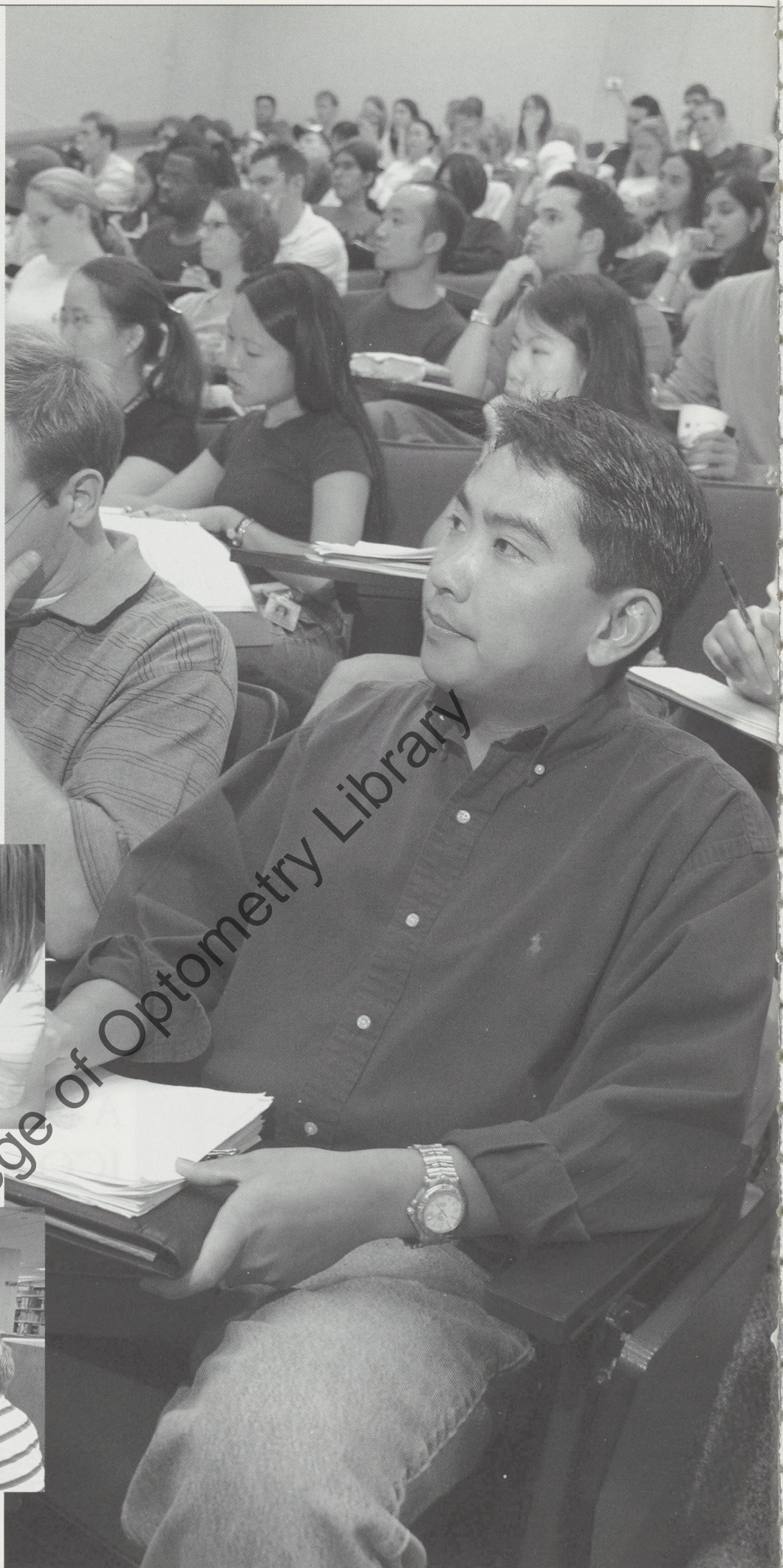
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*Louis in the lab*



*Studying by numbers*





***Why did you choose ICO?***

For its reputation of excellence demonstrated by its curriculum as well as the tremendous impact it continues to have in the optometric community.

***What memory of ICO best represents your experience at the College so far?***

Being in my first year, my experiences have been limited to the past two weeks, which have been fascinating thus far. The faculty are all tremendously friendly and open to students. Their dedication and passion for their work is inspiring. The administration has been great in all aspects, from orientation to registration, and has helped us get started and well on our way to our four-year journey.

***Which faculty member has been most helpful to you?***

All the first-year faculty welcomed us, eager to help and with full understanding of the adjustment a first-year optometry student needs to make.

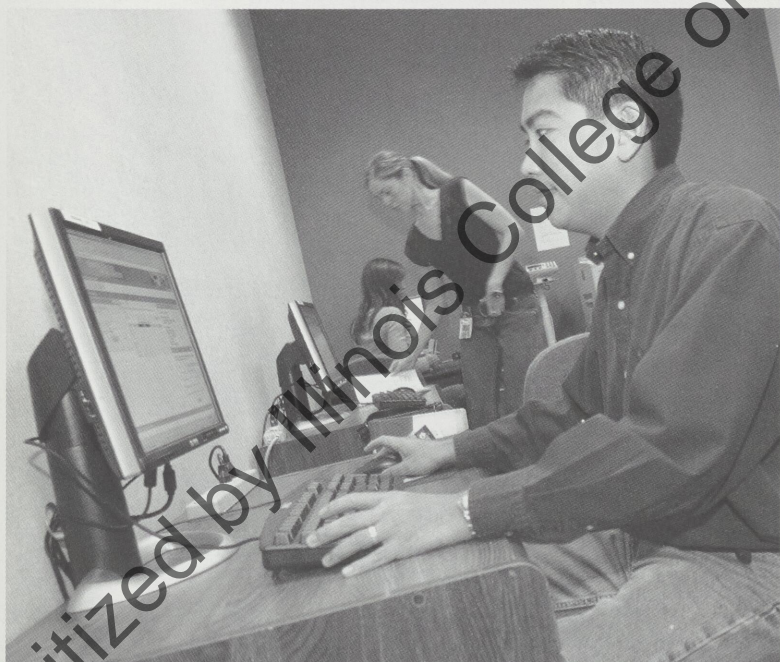
***How many ODs are in your family (including you)? Did any graduate from ICO?***

None. I will be the first in my family to venture into the field of optometry.

***If you weren't going into optometry, what would you be doing?***

Most probably I'd be enrolled in a graduate program, perhaps in vision science or pharmacology with emphasis on ocular medications. ♦

***Catching up on the computer in the library***



## Student Aid

In addition to science, Dr. Rebecca Zoltoski teaches first-year students how to get along at ICO

Rebecca Zoltoski, PhD, enjoys interacting with all students, but she may be most helpful to the first-years.

"I see myself as a mentor for students as well as an educator," says the 40-year-old Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, who came to ICO in 1997.

That mentoring takes place in the classroom and one of two labs where Zoltoski juggles research projects when she isn't lecturing. One involves lens research conducted in collaboration with J.R. Kuszak, PhD, at Rush University. The others are clinical nutrition research projects at ICO.

Zoltoski says she definitely notices a difference between the first-year students, whom she teaches primarily, and, for example, the third-year students. "The first-years are very enthusiastic about learning and have not let go of undergrad ideas and ways, while the third-years have moved into the concept of professional education," she says. But they also are very enthusiastic, adds Zoltoski. "They all want to learn a lot." ♦



# Mandy Mataya

**Year**

Second

**Area of interest in optometry**

Contact Lens/Anterior Segment and  
Low Vision specialties

**Preferred practice setting**

My ideal career path would be to work under an experienced doctor, learning what it takes to run a successful practice, and then eventually purchase a practice of my own. In addition to running my own private practice, I would love to add variety to my schedule by working in a clinic or hospital, specializing in the cornea and contact lenses.

**Undergraduate school and degree**

BS, Exercise Physiology, 2003  
University of Iowa

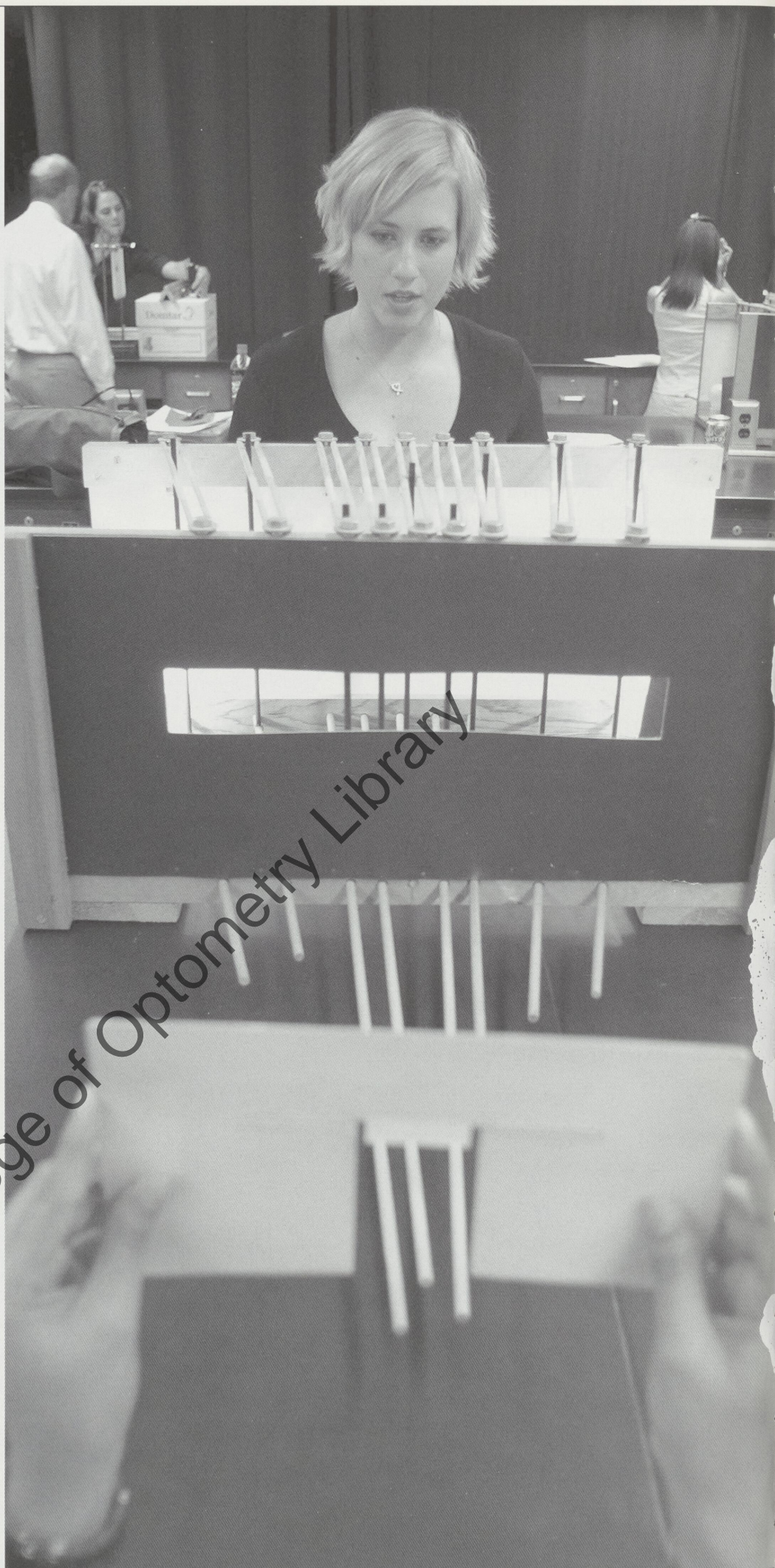
**Hometown city and state**

Madrid, Iowa

**Age**

23

*Binocular Vision Lab work*







*Working the phones in her role as R. A.*

***Why did you choose ICO?***

Initially, I chose ICO because I was very impressed with the clinical experiences and externships it offered. However, after finishing my first year, I've learned that ICO has much more to offer than its exceptional clinical programs. I've fallen in love with Chicago and living here has been an experience that I will never forget.

***What memory of ICO best represents your experience at the College so far?***

My most memorable experience was volunteering this last spring at the Navy Pier Health Fair. I participated in a vision screening, which enabled me to put the skills I learned from class and lab into action to assist patients from a wide variety of backgrounds. It was the perfect culmination of the material and practices I had learned during my first year at ICO.



*Foosball fun in the Residential Complex*

***Which faculty member has been most helpful to you?***

It is difficult to directly answer this question because each faculty member has taught me valuable lessons in their own unique way. However, in my second optometry course, Dr. John Baker challenged and guided me step-by-step through the refraction sequence. After completing his course, I am now confident in performing procedures that will be a part of my daily routine as an OD.

In addition to Dr. Baker, Dr. Geoffrey Goodfellow offered a course that connected me with a private practitioner. This gave me the opportunity to shadow an ICO alum, while learning the business aspects of managing a private practice. I learned lessons from this encounter that will shape my future as an optometrist.

***How many ODs are in your family (including you)? Did any graduate from ICO?***

I will be the first OD in my family, however I grew up working in my father's pharmacy, which made me realize that someday I too wanted to interact with and help patients/customers.

***If you weren't going into optometry, what would you be doing?***

I would enjoy being a personal athletic trainer or becoming an interior decorator. ♦

***Volunteer Time for the American Optometric Student Association***



# Lexie Franzeen

**Year**

Third

**Area of interest in optometry**

I am interested in many different avenues of optometry, such as pediatrics, but I also have a love for teaching, so I hope one day to do that.

**Preferred practice setting**

Undecided, but most likely somewhere in the Midwest.

**Undergraduate school and degree**

BS, Biology, 2001

Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

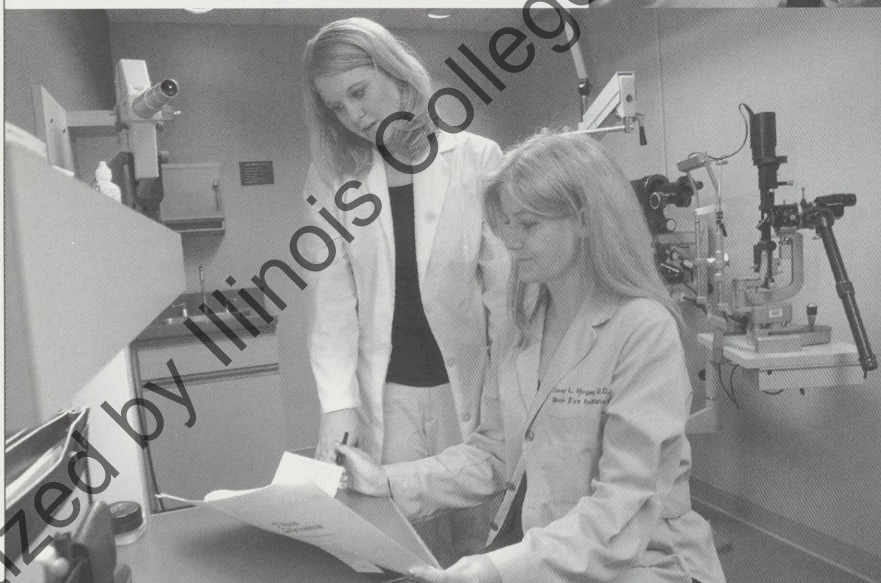
**Hometown city and state**

Bayard, Iowa

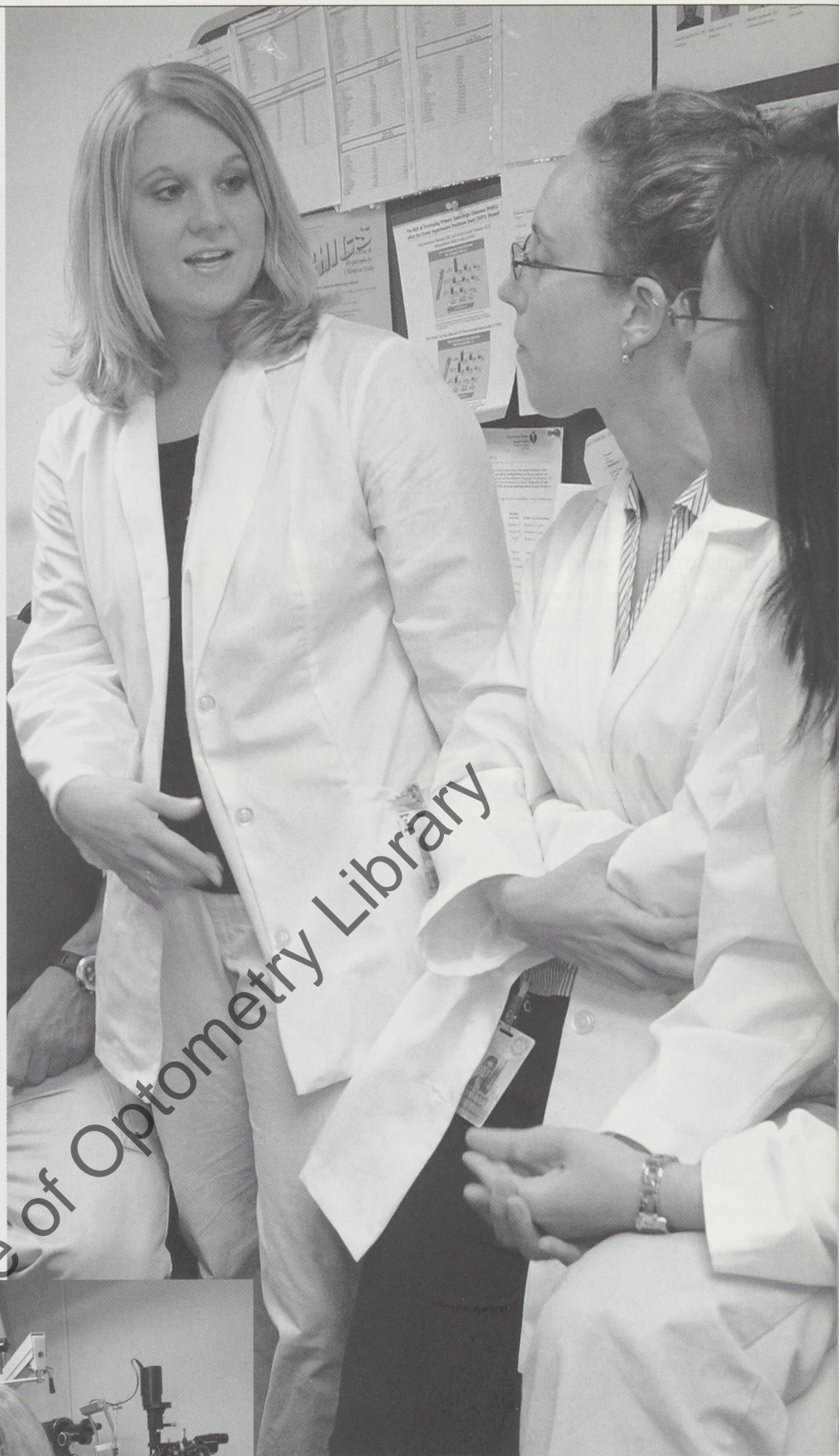
**Age**

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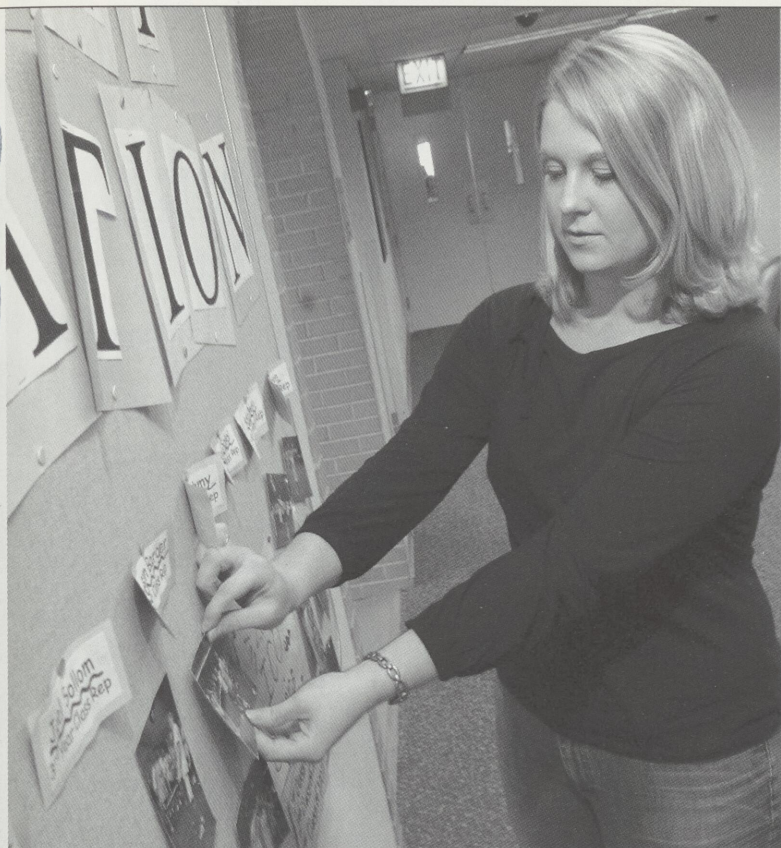
*Behind the scenes*



*Consulting with  
Casey Hogan,  
OD '97 at IEI*







*Making "Blindspot" visible*

***Why did you choose ICO?***

I chose ICO for many reasons, the most important being the friendly atmosphere I experienced when I visited for my interview. The faculty and students I met were all very helpful and friendly. The facilities, clinic, and the RC were also all very influential in my decision, as well as the fact that I had already heard about the ICO experience first-hand from my brother, Blake, ICO class of 2002.

***What memory of ICO best represents your experience at the College so far?***

All of the events that bring students together throughout each year have been among my best memories at ICO.

***Which faculty member has been most helpful to you?***

So many faculty members have been helpful to me in different ways, whether it is in clinic or in class, and I have learned something unique from all of them.

***How many ODs are in your family (including you)? Did any graduate from ICO?***

My brother, Blake, graduated from ICO in May 2002, so there will be two ODs in my family.

***If you weren't going into optometry, what would you be doing?***

I believe I would have followed in the footsteps of my mother, a teacher, as my love for teaching originates from her. ♦

*Eye On Patients*



*Examining patient Aida Winfield*

# Eye Care of Choice

## Aida Winfield prefers care at the Illinois Eye Institute

Aida Winfield, a 55-year-old Chicago Public Schools teacher, used to come to the Illinois Eye Institute years ago. But when IEI wasn't included in her health insurance plan, she chose a covered provider. Then, as soon as her insurance changed, she was back at the Eye Institute.

"I came here because it's connected to a teaching institution," the writing specialist explains. "The treatment is better."

Winfield says she's had corrective lenses since she was 15 and started getting headaches. At that time, she had to wear "big black-rimmed frames. They were horrible," she says, laughing.

To this day, all Winfield needs are glasses. "I have not had other eye problems," she says. But she still wants the best possible care. And she knows where to get it: the Illinois Eye Institute. ♦



# Gene Grinman

**Year**

Fourth

**Area of interest in optometry**

Primary Care, Ocular Disease, Low Vision

**Preferred practice setting**

Private practice or hospital

**Undergraduate school and degree**

BS, Biology, 2000

Loyola University Chicago

**Hometown city and state**

Glenview, IL

**Age**

29



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*Fitting in among the equipment*



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*Why did you choose ICO?*

I chose ICO because it is close to home and it offers a great clinical experience.

*What memory of ICO best represents your experience at the College so far?*

Meeting new friends who are now my colleagues.

*Which faculty member has been most helpful to you?*

Dr. Trachimowicz, who I used to work with. She's one of the best teachers. I enjoyed her classes, partly because she put people on the right track by helping and motivating them.

*How many ODs are in your family (including you)?*

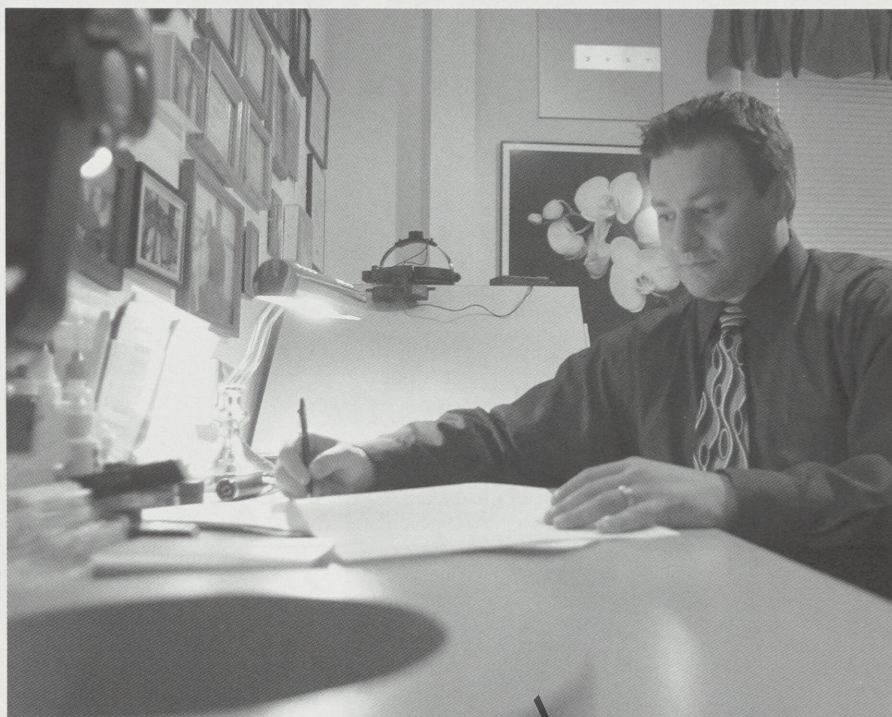
*Did any graduate from ICO?*

None yet, because I'm still in school.

*If you weren't going into optometry, what would you be doing?*

Computer software development ♦

*Office hours*



*Seeing a patient*

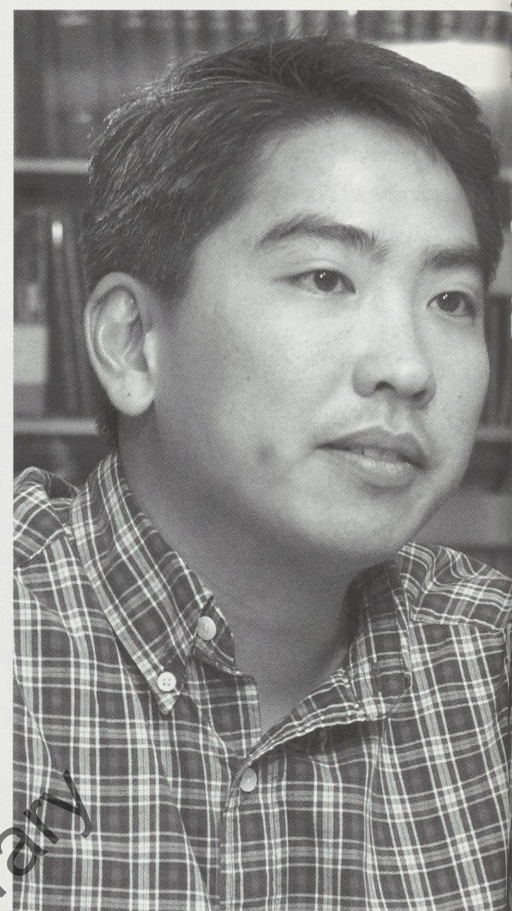




# So What's it Like?

Students discuss the  
Illinois College of Optometry

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First-year student Louis Jison

*The four students who agreed to share their lives with the ICO community — first-year Louis Jison, second-year Mandy Mataya, third-year Lexie Franzeen and fourth-year Gene Grinman — sat down with ICO Matters to discuss their experiences on campus. Their comments, which solely reflect their own opinions, have been cut for space considerations, but are otherwise unedited.*

**ICO Matters:** As a first-year, Louis, you're the person who's most recently gone through the admissions process. How did it go?

**Louis:** It was very well structured, very well organized, planned out from beginning to end. The process started with the interview with faculty, then a meeting with Aisha [Davis, director] in admissions, then lunch, then a tour of campus. Starting from that, my experience has been very well structured and organized.

**ICOM:** Was it nerve-racking?

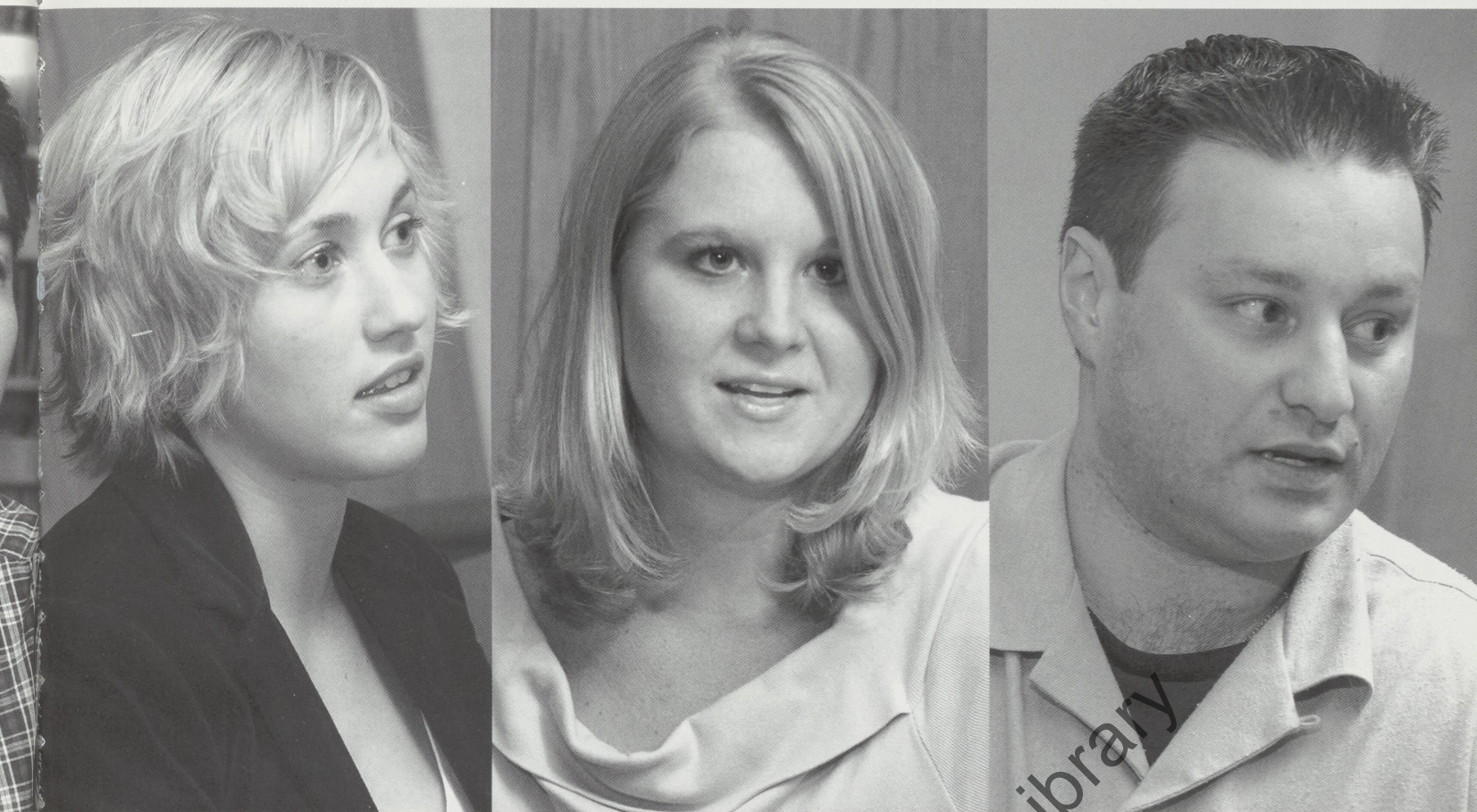
**Mandy:** No. I had heard that the interview process was really laid back. They aren't trying to drill you with what you know and what you don't know. It's more just trying to get to know your personality. They'd seen you on paper, now they just want to know your personality.

**ICOM:** Mandy, you're now a Resident Assistant. Does anyone else participate in extra-curricular campus activities?

**Lexie:** I'm Student Association secretary, so I get to help plan the ICOlympics, and we just had a golf outing and the Club Blindspot. I meet so many people through that. I'm also involved with the scholarships, so I go to meetings and represent the students there. And then I'm a lab assistant, and I tutor a lot of classes. I find the more I get involved, the more I get out of being here. You can't just study all the time.

**ICOM:** But how do you balance it all with an academic program that is so rigorous?





*Second-year student Mandy Mataya*

*Third-year student Lexie Franzeen*

*Fourth-year student Gene Grinman*

**Lexie:** Well, first year, I'll be the first to admit that I was a nerd. I was in the library first quarter all the time, studying. But you can't just focus on that. You have to have a life outside of school.

**ICOM:** How is ICO in terms of supporting the stress? I hear there's a really great workout class on Wednesdays...

**Mandy:** I do that. Yeah it is really great.

**Louis:** There's even a massage therapist.

**Mandy:** And there's a counselor. I really do think they try to really reach out to the students. Especially your first two years because those are the hardest. Even as RA, half of my job is to help the students who are feeling homesick, or stressed. I think my main job over there is to make people feel more at home. It's huge that they put supporting the students as a role for the school. And the tutoring program here is really, really excellent for first and second years to get help with classes.

**Gene:** People want to help out at every end of it.

**Mandy:** Exactly, whether it's mental or academic help or socially.

**Gene:** Oh yeah, there's plenty to do around here.

**Louis:** Yeah for me it helps. It's a great city.

**Mandy:** I think at this point I'm trying to enjoy school and not over-stress about academics. My first year really taught me how important it is to have balance in my life. And I learned that through the rigorous program and learning that you can't put all your effort into one thing and forget about everything else. We're in a profession that we have to have energy and put our all into, but how good are we going to be if we put everything into that and nothing into anything else? I think that's one of the main things I learned my first year. And it will help me in the future.

**Lexie:** The people who are involved and well-balanced are the



best clinicians, whether they're a straight A student or not. Then you can relate to your patients.

**ICOM:** Gene, you're married. Do you and your wife participate in campus events? How is it to have partners participate in ICO life?

**Gene:** Winter time social events, like the "12 bars" at Christmas are fun. I do it every year.

**Mandy:** They make it very welcoming for significant others and spouses to come in.

**Lexie:** A lot of my friends here are the girlfriends or spouses of classmates.

**ICOM:** So it sounds like a tight community.

**Louis:** From my perspective as a first year, you really can't help but be good friends with your colleagues because we have a 10-hour day together. I live in the suburbs too, so I try to come in as early as I can because I want to get to know my fellow first years.

**ICOM:** What about that 10-hour day? How do you find the academic program? Do you feel that you're getting a top quality education?

**Gene:** I would imagine that the first two years, and I can only imagine because I haven't been to any other schools, but the first two years would be pretty much the same throughout the schools. It's the third and fourth years that are different. The clinical experience. ICO is located in an area where the clinical experience is probably one of the best.

**Lexie:** I just started clinic this summer, and it seems like I've seen everything. That was one of the biggest draws of the school for me. I knew where it was located and the patient population that's represented here. I knew there'd be a little bit of everything. You feel that by the time you're finished with your third year, you will have seen it all and you'll have been prepared for anything.

**ICOM:** To some extent you all are on the front lines of an evolving field. Is advancing optometry a personal goal for you? What are your goals as optometrists?

**Mandy:** I think as the profession is changing, we have to change with it. I don't think you can just go ahead into private

practice and be a generalist and think your private practice is going to survive. You can't just take one route; you have to change and be dynamic with the field. At least that's my goal.

**Lexie:** I agree totally. I think it's an evolving profession, and that's one of the most exciting things about the field. Optometry is changing everyday. And optometrists are being able to do more and more. That's one of the reasons there's the debate between optometry and ophthalmology. When we reach agreement it will be beneficial to everyone.

**Louis:** I see it like a marriage. And both members of the marriage don't really have their bearings yet. When you have that problem, when the roles aren't well defined, there's ambiguity. But once we define how an optometrist can support an ophthalmologist and vice versa, we'll have a symbiotic relationship.

**Gene:** For the most part, it's starting to work that way. I just came back from a VA hospital. And that's the kind of symbiotic relationship we saw. Optometrists were the primary care physicians and the ophthalmologists were almost like secondary care. Whatever the problem the patient had, we sent them over to ophthalmology. And that's how it went. And that's how it should go.

**Lexie:** I just think there's a big misconception in the general public as to what we do versus what ophthalmologists do.

**ICOM:** Is it interesting to anybody to try to change that? It sounds like optometry needs a PR campaign to educate the public.

**Gene:** The public should also know which modes of practice provide better care. Private practice versus corporate practice. Where do you think you're going to get better care?

**ICOM:** Is that a conflict for you as you go into practice? Because you'll have huge debt coming out of here and you have to pay your bills and you have to get a job, and so corporate optometry can look advantageous. We did a story in the Spring 2004 issue of *ICO Matters* about ICO graduates perhaps starting out in corporate practice and then shifting to private practice.

**Lexie:** I don't see anything wrong with that. I know people say, 'Oh, corporate, they're really not providing as good of care as in private practice.' I don't necessarily agree with that. I think a lot of doctors in those settings go to pay back loans, but they're



providing the same care they would in private practice. They're not going to drop their standards of care just because they're at a Wal-Mart. I don't think the mindset of the actual optometrist is going to change because they're in a different setting. If they were trained to provide a certain service, then they're going to provide the best service they can no matter where they are.

**ICOM:** Let's talk about the role of alumni. What role do you think alumni should play at their alma mater?

**Louis:** I think alumni are in a great position to be a beacon for the profession and for the College. We definitely benefit from that as graduates of ICO. I think alumni are in a position now that they're practicing to take a stand for the profession of optometry and to create a name for ICO and the prestige of ICO. Basically ICO's prestige lies in its alumni, and their success as professionals. The school is only as good as the product it produces. So that's a very important role of the alumni.

**Mandy:** Also opening doors in mentor programs. There are various mentor programs where students can go and shadow optometrists. I think that is the best way for alumni to be involved.

**Lexie:** Just being a role model for us. I think it's amazing when they actually come back and talk to students, like at career fairs. It's great to see them on a panel and then have a chance to interact with them, hear about their experiences and ask them questions they know they had when they were in our shoes. Because I think the scariest part for us is what's going to happen when we're done here. How are we going to pay back those loans and which way should we go?

**ICOM:** What do you say to people when you talk about ICO?

**Lexie:** That it's fun. I mean, I'm a third year now, but even before, I would go home and talk about all the friends I've made. I didn't go home and talk about 'Oh, it's so hard and I'm miserable.' Just meeting the people I've met and being with my classmates everyday — it's a second family. I go home and I'm excited to come back. We've spent so much time together that it's going to be hard to leave here in the end. ♦



## Be the Best

Trustee Martin Sikorski's attitude at ICO is the same that he practices in optometry

When it comes to Martin Sikorski, OD '66, a member of the Board of Trustees since 1999, ICO ranks near his family and his devotion to optometry. "Most of my involvement outside my practice," he says, "is with my family and with ICO."

Both of these priorities have grown over the years. Sikorski and his wife, Joanne, have five children: Gail, Cheryl, Marty, Lisa and Amy. And now the Sikorskis have six grandchildren. Watching some of those grandchildren is usually a Saturday activity for the couple.

And since the 1980s, Sikorski has increasingly spent more time serving ICO. He began as a member of the Alumni Association, then joined the Alumni Council in 1988. In



## Eye On Trustees

1995, he was named President, and two years later became the Council's representative to the Board. In 1999, Sikorski was elected a member of the ICO Board of Trustees.

Over the years, Sikorski says he's seen the culture of the College only improve. "Each administration has been better than the last," he says. "When I started on the Board, ICO was among the top schools. Now it IS the top school."

Sikorski's daughter, Cheryl Sikorski Meyers, OD '94, believes her father has been able to contribute to the progress of ICO because, "He believes in the quality of the product, whether it's at his practice or at ICO," she says. "He likes to be known as someone who does things the best way."

For his part, Sikorski says he's, "really amazed at the quality of our students, not just academically, but outside school as well. They're probably 50 times better than I was when I was in school."

Today Sikorski owns the Glen Ellyn Vision Center in a suburb of Chicago. He says the practice is largely known for its pediatric care, but, "we are also known for vision therapy. It's really a general family practice."

That statement couldn't be more true. Not only is Joanne Sikorski there part-time, the Sikorski's oldest daughter, Gail Hoffman, is the insurance administrator and accounts manager. Cheryl practices optometry in the office with her father, and Cheryl's husband, Jeffrey Meyers, OD '95, runs the partnership's branch in Elgin, Ill.

One advantage Cheryl has had working with her father has been learn-



*All in the Family: Trustee Martin Sikorski, OD '66 (center), with his daughter, Cheryl Sikorski Meyers, OD '94, and son-in-law, Jeffrey Meyers, OD '95*

ing the field with him. "A long time ago, my father had the foresight to look ahead and stay on top of the progress in optometry; I want to have his foresight to look ahead," she says.

In addition, Cheryl says, "The art of optometry has gotten a little lost in the progress over the years. My father knows the art of it and he reminds me of it."

Her father concurs that optometrists today need to remember the fundamental values of the profession.

"There's been a shift in optometry from being an eyeglass profession to being a medical profession," Sikorski says. "This has meant a change in mindset. Due to activism in the profession, the medical viewpoint has become first; fitting eye glasses has become second. But I fear optometrists will lose their identity in the throes of medical orientation. An ophthalmologist can't hold a candle to an optometrist who can fit good glasses. We have to maintain

the skills we've built our reputation on." Though he worries, Sikorski is helping to ensure that ICO students understand the primary role of optometry. "Our board members are looking at the curriculum to ensure the students understand what's distinctive about optometry," he says. "The challenge for the College is to maintain the profession's distinction. If we do it at ICO, other optometry schools will follow the standard."

Because, as far as Sikorski's concerned, ICO is setting the standard. "In my mind, without a doubt," he says, "ICO is the best place to get an education in optometry." ♦



# Class Notes

1946

**Charles May** received the Rodger Kame Memorial Award at the 2004 Global Orthokeratology Symposium in Toronto. He shared the award with Stuart Grant with whom he developed the May Grant system of fitting orthokeratology. Dr. May is 81 and lives in San Diego.

1948

**George C. Graham** sold his interest in "Optimeyes" to Henry Ford Health system and is now retired after 54 years in practice. He will be moving to New Bern, N.C. in August 2004, where his daughter and son-in-law have a joint medical practice in internal medicine.

1949

**Ralph Meade** celebrated his 55th anniversary of practice at the Florida Chapter meeting of the AAO. He entered Northern Illinois College of Optometry in 1946 and was part of the largest graduating class (600) from a school of optometry. He took the Florida Boards in 1949 and purchased the practice that had belonged to his late father, Dr. Ralph F. Meade, who died in 1939. In his own practice, Dr. Meade specialized in the vision problems of children until he was drafted into the infantry in 1951. After discharge from the service in 1952, he began a practice a year later at Colonial Mills in Orlando, Fla.

**Jerome J. Abrams** completed a Volunteer Optometrists Serving Humanity (VOSH) trip last summer.

1955

**Charles J. Krall** of Mitchell, SD, is semi-retired.

1960

**R.K. Driver** retired as of July 1, 2004, and is loving it!

1962

**Ron Henson**, 65, who practices at the Delavan, Wis. Wal-Mart Supercenter, was recently featured in his local newspaper, the Delavan *Enterprise*, after biking more than 110 miles in four days riding the hills of Spain. Dr. Henson's course was the same one cyclist Lance Armstrong bikes as he practices for the Tour De France. He is now planning separate trips to Spain and France.

1971

**David Hansen** left his private practice in Des Moines, Ia., in September 2004, to take on the position of director of professional affairs at Advanced Medical Optics (AMO). In his new position, Dr. Hansen will be responsible for interfacing with national, state, and local optometric/ophthalmic organizations and will act as a liaison with optometry schools to promote AMO's products and services among other responsibilities.

1976

**Janice Scharre**, Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs at ICO, has been appointed to ASCO's Academic Affairs committee for 2004-05.

1977

**Bill M. Park** announced the addition of his son, Dr. Quentin G. Park, ICO '04, as his new associate. Currently, his office is being remodeled to accommodate three additional exam lanes, a contact lens teaching area, and additional spaces for lab work and breaks. Dr. Park's daughter, Lena, will graduate from ICO in 2006.

1980

**Francis X. Cottone** and his wife Diane recently attended the International Exhibition of Optics, Optometry and Ophthalmology (MIDO) held yearly in Milan. Since its establishment in 1970 by a group of Italian businessmen from the Cadore district, the fair has made its mark on the international stage as the leading optical event, attracting growing numbers of exhibitors from around the world.

1981

**Sandra Block** was awarded the Ezell Fellowship from the American Optometric Foundation.

1983

**Jeffrey Smith** was re-appointed chairman of the board of directors of the Pearle Vision Foundation for 2004-2005. The 15-year-old foundation has awarded more than \$5 million in grants to organizations and individuals promoting vision-related causes in the United States.

**Lt. Col. Jim Colgain** was activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom in February of 2004. His activation was in support of the F-16 Fighter wing. He is also involved in the optometric lecture circuit at meetings and conferences in Montana, Virginia, Florida, California, and Georgia. He lectured at the ICO Alumni Reunion in 2003.

1985

**Michael G. Zost**, Associate Professor of Optometry at the Illinois College of Optometry, was a guest faculty participant in the March 2004 conference "Rehabilitation of Adults with Low Vision," at Northwestern University. Zost is in private practice in Glenview, Ill., with specialties in neuro-optometric rehabilitation and pediatrics. He serves as vice chairman of the Advisory Council of the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired in Jacksonville, Ill.

1987

Upon graduating with his optometry degree, **Charles Philippou** began practicing at a surgicenter and managed 10,000-12,000 cataract and other surgical patients over a period of two-and-a-half years. His commercial experience with Sears Optical was instrumental in the initial success of private practice. Now with 17 years of practice (10 of them private practice), Dr. Philippou practices in a building he bought five years ago. Philippou and his wife, Maria, have three children, Adam (11), Anthony (9), and Christina (5). A Rotarian and self-described "gearhead," Philippou has written for automotive periodicals and made many friends and contacts in the industry.

1990

**Stephen H. Eap** recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of his private practice in Long Beach, Calif. He also earned a law degree from Pacific Coast University School of Law in 2001.

1992

**James Ferguson**, who operates Family Eye Care Center in East Chicago and in Highland, Ind., was featured in the Northwest Indiana *Times* for his work with home-bound patients, most of whom have been injured in industrial accidents. Dr. Ferguson usually makes house calls on lunch breaks or after hours, traveling regularly to Munster, Griffith, and Highland. He carries with him a set of portable examination tools that include a case of eyeglass frames in approximately 60 styles. Dr. Ferguson told the *Times* he wishes more of his colleagues would consider following his example because the need is so great.



# Class Notes

1995

**Sandra Bury**, an Oak Lawn, Ill., optometrist, was named 2004 Young Optometrist of the Year by the American Optometric Association. The award is made within the first 10 years of an optometrist's career. Bury was cited for her volunteer leadership in many organizations. In addition to her service to humanity through Volunteer Optometric Services for Humanity (VOSH), she has volunteered her services to the poor in six foreign countries, including Nicaragua, Peru, Lithuania, Mexico, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic. Dr. Bury is a member of the Professional Advisory Council of the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Dr. Bury was voted Young Optometrist of the Year 2003 by the Illinois Optometric Association and received the "Woman of Vision Award" in 2002 from Prevent Blindness America.

1996

**David K. May** practices at Davis Deuhr Dean in Prairie du Sac, Wis., an optometry/ophthalmology group specializing in refractive surgery and anterior segment disease. Dr. May and his wife, Candace, have a one-and-a-half-year-old son, Evan.

1999

As the new Clinical Director for TLC Laser Eye Centers Chicagoland in Westchester, Ill., **John K. Lehr** works directly with more than 200 LASIK patients a month and coordinates with 250 affiliate optometrists in the area. He helped develop a new laser vision center within an ophthalmologist's office in Novamed Eyecare in Arlington Heights. Prior to his new position he was director for an ophthalmology practice in Lake Villa for two years.

**Douglas Yuwan** and Nicole Stefanik plan an October 2004 wedding. Nicole is an esthetician employed by Tranquility, Inc., in St. Charles, Ill. Dr. Yuwan is employed by Tyler Ridge Vision in St. Charles.

2000

Alumni **Saly Tran** and **Jason Varner** were married on July 26th, 2003, in Lake Geneva, Wis. They were honored to have Stefanie Hurst, Sarah Jerome, Lisa Ho, and Natalie Stankevych (all ICO 2000) as part of their wedding party. Both are working in southeastern Wisconsin and reside in Wauwatosa, Wis.

# Obituaries

**Wallace P. Wildermuth, NICO '48**, died on Oct. 8, 2003.

**Merle Pearle, NICO '48**, died in May 2004.

**Jules Echelman, CCO '50**, a doctor of optometry and long-time resident of Orlando, Fla., died Sept. 10, 2003. He was 79. A member of American Optometric Association for 50 years, Dr. Echelman retired in 1996 after 45 years of optometric practice. He is survived by his wife Marion, two sons, Richard and Robert, a daughter, Susan, and a brother, Gilbert. Dr. Echelman was passionate about politics and fishing.

**Duane Elmer Luedke, OD '58**, of Merrill, Wis., died July 8, 2004, at Wausau Hospital. He was 71. Dr. Luedke served in the army from 1953-1955 and graduated from Illinois College of Optometry in 1958. He received the Rotary Club Four Avenues of Service Citation for Individual Rotarians and the District Governor's Award for 2000-01. Dr. Luedke enjoyed playing piano and reading. He is survived by a daughter, two sons, two grandchildren, and one step-granddaughter.

**Wilhelm Pohl, OD '59**, died Sept. 23, 2004, from complications of Parkinson's disease. At the time of his death, he was 85 and living in Pfarrkirchen, Germany.

The year he graduated from ICO, Dr. Pohl was the first foreign-born graduate to pass the National Board of Optometry. He returned to Munich, where he opened the first optometric practice in Germany. He later moved his office to Pfarrkirchen in Lower Bavaria.

In 1986, Illinois College of Optometry awarded Dr. Pohl the honorary Doctor of Ocular Science degree for his lifelong promotion of optometry in Europe. He was honored with the Outstanding Alumni Award by the ICO Alumni Council in 1994 and received an ICO Presidential Medal of Honor in 1999.

**Raymond H. Jurgensen, OD '68**, died in April 2004, in Glen Ellyn, Ill. He was 74. He is survived by his wife Sharon, his daughter, Shari McMillan, OD, and his son Paul.

**Lawrence G. Gray, OD, ICO adjunct faculty member**, of Ballyne Park section of Philadelphia, died of complications from pancreatic cancer April 1, 2004, at Graduate Hospital in Philadelphia, Pa. He was 58.

Dr. Gray, an optometrist and educator, was chief of neuro-ophthalmic disease services at the Eye Institute of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry and was co-director of the neuro-ophthalmic disease services at Hahnemann University where he was an assistant professor of ophthalmology and neurology. He was an adjunct professor of neurology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and taught at the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago, where he was an assistant professor. He also lectured to optometrists in Europe, Israel, and Australia.

An accomplished classical guitarist, Dr. Gray was also a committed jogger who ran five to six miles a day. He is survived by brothers David and Richard, and two nieces.

## Dr. Albert "Buddy" Rodriguez Memorial

*In the Spring 2004 issue we published the obituary of Trustee Albert H. Rodriguez, Jr., OD '74, DO who died unexpectedly of a heart attack on Friday, March 19, 2004. He was 53. In response to his passing, ICO received several memorial letters, printed below.*

I've many great memories of Buddy, but I remember when ICO was in one of its darkest hours and Buddy, along with John Brandt were suddenly responsible to lead the school. With no path to guide him he made many hard, difficult decisions and was able to steer ICO away from the impending gloom. Using humor, integrity and firm leadership the two of them together were able to bring ICO back to the level of credibility and status it enjoys today. His planning and solid 20/20 vision of the future allowed Buddy to restore his beloved ICO and help give back to the institution that had given him so much.

—Howard I. Woolf, OD '67

Buddy Rodriguez was special. From our student days to the time he helped manage ICO to his time as a member of the ICO Board of Trustees, he was special. Who can forget Buddy as one of the original members of that famous (or was it infamous) rock group, "Jefo and the Belvederes?" My gosh! Remember the nights at the Emerald Isle when Buddy would get the whole group laughing and singing? Fun times! Buddy went to Florida but never forgot ICO. He became the business person the college needed to guide us in the 1990s. As a Board member, I got to discuss faculty issues with him. He stated his opinions but was always willing to listen and above all, do what was right for ICO. Buddy always greeted people with a smile, a hug and that wonderful way of his to make you feel special too.

—Jan Jurkus, OD '74

Dr. Rodriguez was an important mentor to me for almost a decade. He taught me to be strong in my decisions and to be able to make the "tough call," even when the decision was not a popular one. Dr. Rodriguez challenged me to be a creative thinker and a tough negotiator. I miss his advice, I miss his great sense of humor, I miss his sensitivity and, most of all, I miss his mischievous smile and the twinkle in his eye.

—Laura Rounce, ICO Vice President for Human and Physical Resources

Buddy Rodriguez was a unique man who wore many different hats. He was a great family man, a smart and successful businessman and a strong proponent of optometry. He was a

pilot, a captain, an entrepreneur and a prankster. He was new things to many people, but to me he was a special longtime friend and an almost daily source of fun and laughter.

When Buddy and I finished our summer clinic obligations in July of '73, we drove all night to Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park for a hastily planned camping trip. We were poorly prepared for the summer snowstorm we encountered while camping at about 8,000-foot elevation. We were even less prepared after Buddy managed to break the only lantern we had and the zipper on the tent's door. It was a bad situation, we nearly froze...and we had a ball. It was the first of many trips we would take together over the next 30 years.

The day Buddy got his pilot's license we flew with our wives to an island in the Keys. When he secured his captain's license we entered into the Bermuda Triangle and immediately lost an engine, and GPS system on our way to the Abacos Islands. No matter where we went, or what we encountered, Jackie and I felt secure with Cap't Bud at the controls. We all got along and enjoyed each other's company, and we always had a blast. Our wives became close friends and we got to watch the Rodriguez children, Chris and Jen, grow up.

For the past 12 years, while Buddy served on the ICO Board of Trustees, he made frequent trips to Chicago and he would always end up at my door. He loved Chicago. His enthusiasm for making ICO a better school and optometry a better profession never wavered. He was proud of what ICO has become, and he played an important role in that transformation. He also made a few surprise visits to our office along with prank calls to any of our newer staff members who had not yet met Buddy. If he wasn't the IRS calling to schedule an audit, it was a panic-stricken contact lens patient calling about his bleeding eye.

Buddy's passing has left an immense void in the lives of all of us who knew and loved him. My partner, Clif Crompton, and I make references to Buddy everyday. He was and always will be a large part of our lives, and will remain in our thoughts forever. I'm thankful I had such a special friend as Buddy Rodriguez. I only wish we could have shared even more time together to create some new memories.

—John "Brills" Holicka, OD '74



# Giving Thanks

## The Shepherd-McDonalds establish a scholarship endowment

Just three years after graduating from the Illinois College of Optometry, Jennet Shepherd, OD '01, and her husband, David McDonald, have established the Natelle and Curt Brown Endowment for Non-traditional Students at ICO.

They felt it was time to give thanks.

Back in 1997, when Shepherd announced at a family reunion that she intended to enter optometry school at the age of 33, her aunt and uncle, Natelle and Curt Brown, said they wanted to help. Then they did, by writing a check. And, Shepherd says, "They made it clear it was a gift."

According to Shepherd, there are a few reasons the Browns stepped forward. One: "They are very generous people," she says. Two: Shepherd and McDonald had three small children when she decided to go back to school 11 years after earning her BA in mathematics. Three, says McDonald, "You don't go back to school when your husband is a preacher."

The family was living in Peotone, Ill., where McDonald served as a protestant minister. Shepherd was a high school teacher until their second child arrived, and, "it didn't pay to teach."

So Shepherd stayed home with the kids and, she says "figured out what I wanted to do." After exploring several options

in health care, she chose optometry. As Shepherd completed her degree, she and her family moved to southern Wisconsin, where she now has a commercial practice in Janesville. Today, she can say, "I love my career. This has all very much paid off."

And, it is time for the Shepherd McDonalds to pay back. Their endowment will provide a cash stipend to a fourth-year student with a family. "There are no strings attached," McDonald says. "The money can be used for a plane ticket, a security deposit on an apartment, a washing machine...we don't care. When you have a family and kids you have enough pressure. We know how tough school can be and we want to help make it possible for others to get through."

Plus, says Shepherd, "Students always need money."

And, when Shepherd looked into giving opportunities at ICO, she was surprised to find "ICO doesn't have much of an endowment," she says. "As the oldest optometry school, we should have a rich tradition of support. I was disappointed there wasn't more alumni involvement. We wanted to help establish that."

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, through their gift the couple found "a permanent way to honor [Shepherd's] aunt and uncle." ♦



## Leadership Circle

Leadership Circle donors make annual gifts of \$1000 or more during the fiscal year. This list reflects giving from Feb. 1, 2003, to April 15, 2004.

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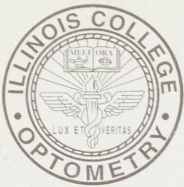
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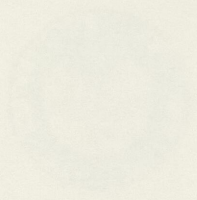
### **Eye on the Ball**

These ICO students  
are having a ball,  
playing...ball back  
in the 1980s.



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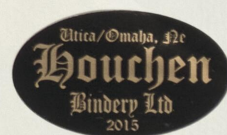


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